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S O C C E R



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English Premier League Kicks Off

NSW Awards Night
Picture Special

Govic signs for PAOK

Confederations
Cup Final

SOCCER WEEKLY

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

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NEW EDITOR AT ABSW

Foreign Language Publications is pleased to announce the appointment of Anthony Raineri (pictured) as editor of the Australian & British Soccer Weekly.

This will be Mr Raineri's second stint as editor of the newspaper which was first published in 1980.

He previously held the position from June 1994 to May 1996.

Mr Raineri left ABSW to undertake a private, eight-month soccer journalism fact-finding expedition to Europe.

Determined to benefit educationally as well as culturally, he made the time to visit the

how European soccer magazines and newspapers were produced, increasing his knowledge of overseas soccer and building up contacts.

The newspapers and magazines visited were: World Soccer, Match, FourFourTwo (England), La Gazzetta Dello Sport, Corriere Dello Sport, Tutto Sport, Guerin Sportivo (Italy), As, Marca, Sport, El Mundo Deportivo, Don Balon (Spain), Kicker (Germany), A Bola, Record (Portugal), Sport (Switzerland), Voetball International (The Netherlands), La Derniere Heure Les Sport, Foot (Belgium), France Football, Onze Mondial (France).

Upon Mr Raineri's return to Australia in 1997, he became the staff journalist of Total Sports magazine during which time he won the Ericsson Cup's Best Magazine Feature Story award two years in a row.

Mr Raineri, 28, understands what soccer fans want in a soccer newspaper because he is soccer fan himself, not just of Australian soccer, but world soccer.

He will endeavour to provide a comprehensive coverage of the 'world game' as well as make ABSW the definitive guide to Australian soccer, especially the

Ericsson Cup.

Mr Raineri, who officially takes charge tomorrow (Wednesday), said he would like to thank ABSW's acting editor Daniel Giorlando who for the past two months has done an excellent job under very difficult circumstances.



offices of no fewer than 21 soccer magazines and newspapers as well as soccer's world governing body FIFA and the France '98 World Cup Organising Committee.

Mr Raineri met with journalists, editors and other editorial staff, acquiring invaluable information on



Mark Bosnich displays his new kit.

BOSNICH SIGNS DEAL

Socceroo star and newly-acquired Manchester United goalkeeper, Mark Bosnich, has signed a lucrative sponsorship contract with sportswear manufacturer, Umbro.

This deal further vindicates the Australian's decision to move to the English giants and it will earn him Australian keeper some \$2.5 million over the next three years.

This deal comes on top of the \$20million that Bosnich is getting from the club over the next four years, which now makes him one of the best paid Australian sportsmen.

Umbro is delighted with the deal and have estimated that Bosnich will bring an extra \$10million to the sales of the sports company.

Bosnich however has been surprised at the demands that have placed on him as former United keeper Peter Schmeichel's replacement, although he says he has settled in at the club.

Bosnich made his Premiership debut for United against Everton as both teams played out a 1-1 draw.

• For more news from the UK, turn to page 27

MEMORIAL CUP DRAW

The summer soccer season unofficially kicks off this Sunday when Ericsson Cup club Canberra Cosmos takes on NSW Super League champions Blacktown City in the David Carty and Peter Forsyth Memorial Cup.

The competition has been named in honour of two NSW police officers who were stabbed to death in separate incidents in 1997 and 1998 respectively.

Constable Carty was killed in a hotel car park only a few kilometres from Club Marconi, while Constable Forsyth was fatally attacked in inner Sydney's Ultimo.

The Cup — in its second year — will feature Ericsson Cup clubs Marconi-Fairfield, Sydney Olympic, Sydney United, Northern Spirit, Newcastle Breakers, Wollongong Wolves, Canberra Cosmos and their NSW counterparts Parramatta Eagles, Bonnyrigg and Blacktown.

NSW Police Commissioner Peter Ryan urged soccer fans to come and enjoy a pre-season competition that should go from strength-to-strength.

"Constables Carty and Forsyth were dedicated officers who worked hard to serve the community," Mr Ryan said. "It is therefore very gratifying to see the community unite in their memory, and in support of the families of police who have been killed in the line of duty."

Funds raised from the competition will go to Police Legacy for the families of officers killed in the line of duty.

The draw is as follows:

August 15, 1999 (at Marconi Stadium)

Canberra Cosmos v Blacktown City (2pm)

Parramatta Eagles v Bonnyrigg Eagles (4pm)

August 22, 1999 (at Marconi Stadium)

Sydney Olympic v winner of Parramatta/Bonnyrigg (2pm)

Marconi-Fairfield v winner of Canberra/Blacktown (4pm)

August 29, 1999 (at Breakers Stadium)

Newcastle Breakers v Northern Spirit (2.30pm)

August 29, 1999 (at Edensor Park)

Sydney United v Wollongong Wolves (3pm)

September 5, 1999 (Marconi Stadium)

Semi-finals (Double header, 2pm and 4pm)

September 19, 1999 (Parramatta Stadium)

Final (5pm)

Third & Fourth Play-off (3pm)

NSW Police v Victoria Police (1pm)

Ticket prices

Adults:	\$10
Children over 12/concession:	\$5
Family (2 adults and up to 4 children):	\$20
Children under 12:	Free

Tickets are available from Ticketek (02) 9266 4800, Club Marconi, Sydney United, Newcastle Breakers and Parramatta Stadium

Australian News

INTERVIEWS COMPLETED BUT STILL NO DECISION



By John Economos

Last Saturday the Board of five Commissioners of Soccer Australia, completed interviews of four candidates for the position of National Coach.

Only four of the original five candidates were interviewed, as current care-taker coach of the National team, also the already officially appointed Sydney 2000 Olympic coach, Raul Blanco, did not appear at Sydney's Airport Hilton Hotel where the interviews took place.



David Mitchell

The successful candidate will be announced sometime later this week.

Interviewed were Angie Postecoglou, David Mitchell, Eddie Krncevic and Frank Farina. All former Australian international players as well.

But where was Blanco?

Saturday's interviews in reality were Australia's very first and most crucial step towards qualifying for the next World Cup Finals in 2002 in Japan-South Korea.

For the successful candidate, very much depends on him as to Australia's destiny on the 'Road To World Cup 2002'.

There was absolutely no reason for Blanco to appear, cap in hand at the Hilton on Saturday.

If Australia's Commissioners are still not aware of Blanco's capacity and skills, then they should not be Commissioners today.

Previously highly favoured Englishman, the articulate Roy Hodgson, and former national coach of Switzerland but more recently boss of Inter Milan, shot himself in the foot as far as hoping to be granted Australia's most



Raul Blanco ... Has first-hand knowledge of South American soccer.

prestigious senior coaching position.

Hodgson in his preliminary dialogue with Soccer Australia two months ago, stipulated that for him to accept the National position, he would demand that he be automatically put in charge of Australia's 2000 Olympic team as well.

This was political suicide for Hodgson as Australia, (the Federal Government in fact), had already appointed Raul Blanco to this equally prestigious position.

Political suicide for Hodgson, but nevertheless his beliefs were correct.

In principle.

If one assumes Hodgson's beliefs were correct in principle, which they are, then automatically Raul Blanco should have been already appointed as our next World Cup coach.

Blanco not only has lived and played in Australia since 1967, but already is Australia's Olympic coach.



Eddie Krncevic

Thus through what Hodgson believes, Blanco must automatically be in charge of the senior national team.

It's a natural progressive corridor, is it not?

Brazil's Mario Zagallo had the Olympic team, Passarella had Argentina's Olympic squad and Australia's Eddie Thomson was in charge at both Barcelona as well as at Atlanta.

So why not Blanco in reverse?

After retiring as a top grade player with the now defunct Prague team and later Pan Hellenic in 1973, Blanco has coached clubs at all levels.

Since 1981 Blanco has been heavily involved with all four of

Australia's national squads, but never in charge as head coach.

Only recently has Blanco been appointed as Number 1, and that is with the Olympic squad.

Since Terry Venables' departure, Blanco was put in charge of the senior Australian squad for 10 matches, including the last two recent clashes against the touring giants Manchester United.

In those 10 matches that Blanco was in charge, he's lost three, both games against the mighty United plus the Oceania final for the Confederations Cup against New Zealand up in Brisbane.

But was Blanco at fault for this last one which appears that he has not been forgiven?

Blanco could call on none of Australia's Euro-based players, but relied entirely on home-based players. It was a line of thought very strongly supported by the entire soccer media — why not give the local based players a go?

For this cardinal loss for which it appears that Blanco still has not been forgiven, Soccer Australia at the time was so crippled financially, that even if we could have had our Euro based players released by their clubs, we couldn't afford the costs involved to bring them back.

And as far as one of Blanco's most vitriolic critics, (himself a high-profile coach), who had the audacity to slag Blanco on national television recently for "not being a coach with a track record as a winner"....well one should always look at his own back yard before he attacks.

Further still, should Australia win its next Oceania group qualifiers we have to face a lethal foe — that being the fifth-best nation from the South American group.

With his vast Latin American background including language and first hand knowledge of

all South American countries, who better than Blanco can navigate Australia's ship through this very dangerous hurdle that we have religiously always but once failed to clear.

We hope that Blanco's consideration for the senior position was most seriously scrutinised with the utmost professional respect.

Soccer Australia cannot afford to make a reckless, naive or political coaching appointment.

If it does and we again fail to qualify for the World Cup, Soccer Australia will have learnt nothing from the disastrous France 98 campaign.



Frank Farina

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GOOD OIL ... GOOD OIL ... GOOD OIL

South Melbourne and the Ericsson National League's youngest coach Angie Postecoglou, late last week snapped up attacking midfielder Richard Alagich from the jaws of the Sharks in Adelaide.

Despite his tender years of having seen only 33 summers, the studious Angie achieved incredible success in his three years coaching at Souths, steering the giant Melbourne club to successive wins in the National League's last two



Angie Postecoglou ... Souths' amazing young studious coach.

Grand Finals.

The youthful and most serious South's boss was last Saturday one of the candidates interviewed in Sydney by Soccer Australia's five Commissioners for the National coaching position.



Andy Harper, the former Sydney City, St George, Marconi and for the past two seasons with the Brisbane Strikers, has moved back down to Sydney.

The hairless, but far from brainless striker, who has graduated with a degree in Communications and who did such an enormous and absolutely fabulous job for



Andy Harper ... Back in Sydney and seeking a club.

SBS in the last World Cup Final in France, is hunting for a new club in Sydney 'Good Oil' believes that Sydney United has the edge, but Sydney Olympic also could be most interested after having failed to nail down Canberra's Peter Buljan who the Glory snapped up recently.



Peter Buljan, Canberra's outstanding striker, late last week signed for Perth Glory, and not Sydney Olympic as was first anticipated by many.

Scorer of nine most precious goals for the struggling Canberra Cosmos in the National League last season, Buljan is expected to shift digs to Perth this week.

Glory's General manager Roger Lefort stated to 'Good Oil': "Peter impressed our coaching staff immensely when he played against us with Canberra Cosmos last season. He's been Glory's target ever since."

Already signed and previously announced by the Glory, was former Brisbane Strikers' energetic and outspoken goalscoring midfielder, Kasey Werhman.

The Glory to complete their hat-trick of signings to date, could be set to make another attack in the Sharks' pool.



Peter Buljan ... Now a Glory player.

"Good Oil" is of the belief that strapping stopper or striker, the lofty Hamilton Thorp is already in the Glory's sights.

Stay tuned to this channel.



SBS TV, by far Australia's Super Soccer Channel, as from last night has launched its brand new programme with a brilliant highlight coverage package of the England Premier League season. This was screened at 8.30pm.

But even far better, as from next Monday, (August 16th), the 'Super Soccer Channel' screens the English Soccer League at the better time slot of, 7.30pm.

This highly watched programme bringing to Australia the world's most popular and watched Soccer League, is the only free-to-air comprehensive highlight series in prime time every week. And only on SBS of course.

A vast contrast in servicing the Australian Soccer fan as to the dreadful days when the ABC had the rights to the English League and would screen this programme in most cases at 11pm and sometimes at even 11.30pm. Great for the

By John Economos

kids, if they drank heaps of coffee.

Commentary will come from the excellent Martin Tyler and Paul Dempsey.

This programme will enable Australian viewers to monitor every week without fail the careers and progress of our many young Aussie stars making their mark in England's Premier League.



Mark Schwarzer ... Middlesbrough's defiant goalkeeper.

Aussie stars such as Coventry City's stylistic goal-ace John Aloisi, Manchester United's newly-signed world class goalkeeper Mark Bosnich, Middlesbrough's powerfully defiant goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer, newly promoted Watford's industrious midfielder Richard Johnson, plus Leeds United's left flank front runner Harry Kewell.

The English League programme is just another addition to the very rich portfolio of Soccer programmes brought into Australia by SBS.

The English Premier League investment made by SBS adds to the other premium products the 'Super Soccer Channel' already has such as the F.A.Cup Final, European Champions League, UEFA Cup, Copa America and the Italian Serie A, not to mention the world class full Live coverage of the last three World Cup Finals, (Italia 90, USA 94 and France 98).

No wonder that SBS for years has so jealously protected its position as Australia's undisputed Soccer Network.

The weekly SBS Monday English League programme will be repeated each Saturday afternoon at 5.30pm.



David Mitchell ... Parramatta Power's boss.

David Mitchell's Parramatta Power for its first home game of the new season starting on Friday night October 1st, will change the name of the Parramatta Stadium to that of 'Power House'.

Big things are expected from the League's latest fledgling club.

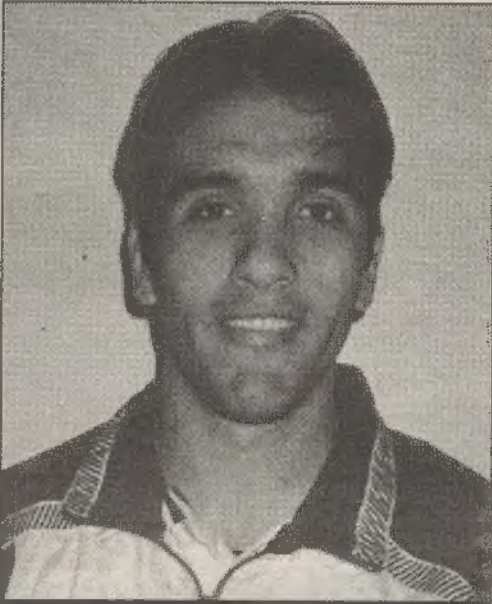
'Good Oil' is aware already that some of these things include many innovative measures and strategies that have already been installed on the managerial side.



Friday Night Soccer seems to have become popular as now for the new season Adelaide City and the Sharks, plus the Parramatta Power, Northern Spirit, Canberra Cosmos, Carlton as well as Newcastle Breakers will play their home matches on a Friday evening.



Sydney Olympic in a recent friendly against the University of NSW defeated the students 3-0 via a colourful hat-trick from that Man, Pablo Cardozo.



Pablo Cardozo ... Olympic's ace goalscorer.

Cardozo last season was the Ericsson League's top goalscorer and already is looking in fine form.

In other news concerning Olympic, just as 'Good Oil' had speculated recently, former Blacktown City and Canterbury-Marrickville striker Zlatko Arambasic was signed up late last week to join Cardozo in Olympic's attack-line.

Arambasic for the past six seasons has played in Belgium.

Still on Olympic, their planned trip to Fiji at the end of this week has collapsed.

Olympic as well as Wollongong Wolves had been invited by the Fiji F.A. to tour their tropical country, but late last week both NSW clubs were informed that the tour could not be financed due to lack of sponsorship support.



Ante Covic, Marconi's stringbean goalkeeper has almost certainly signed for Greek first division side Paok.



Mike Gibson ... Power's goalkeeper.

The former Leichhardt Tigers' custodian is about to be signed, sealed and delivered for the ridiculously cheap transfer of \$300,000 to the northern Greek club.

The Tigers' have a 20% vested interest in Covic when sold overseas.

The elastic Covic impressed the Greek coaching staff at Paok during their pre-season training camp tour of Germany.

That now leaves Marconi without an experienced NSL 'wicket keeper'.



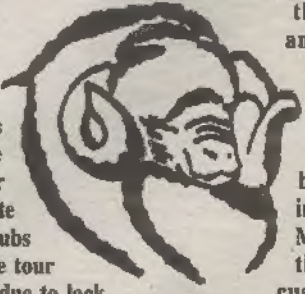
John Crawley, Macarthur Rams' giant goalkeeper who last Friday night took out the NSW Soccer Federation's 'Goalkeeper Of The Year' award, is expected to soon have trials with Sydney Olympic.

Olympic is currently stranded with the most unexpected retirement due to business commitments of regular custodian George Bouhoutsos.

Crawley is very well experienced and played in the first division in Chile for almost four years before returning to Sydney last year.



MACARTHUR



RAMS

Glory's Danny Milosevic as has been reported.

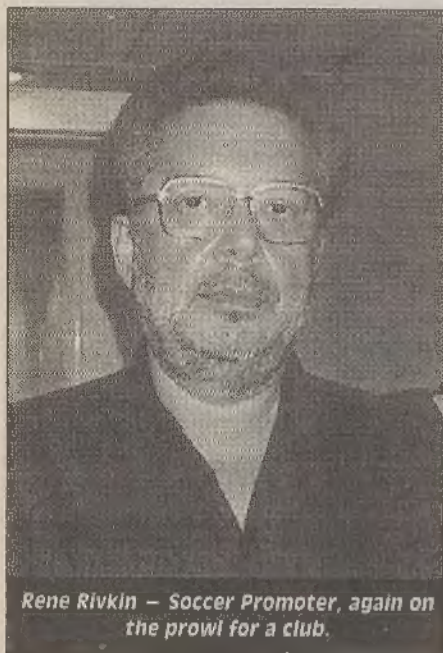
'Good Oil' understands it's a Sydney gloveman.



GOOD OIL ... GOOD OIL ... GOOD OIL

Rene Rivkin, one of Australia's newest Soccer promoters, having successfully brought to Australia last year the Brazilian Olympic team plus the great Manchester United last month, is now rumoured to have regained a strong desire to get involved with a club in the Ericsson National League.

The cigar-chomping former stockbroker almost succeeded 18 months ago in taking over Sydney Olympic, but Greek politics within the Club impeded Rivkin's path. By missing out on Olympic, it at least saved Rene from purchasing an extra set of worry-beads.



Rene Rivkin - Soccer Promoter, again on the prowl for a club.

Last year Rivkin's 'Soccer mechanics' also looked at the Newcastle Breakers as a potential target, but they ultimately decided against it.

□♦♦♦

Adelaide City's tough taskmaster Zoran Matic, even before pre-season training started, saw that his work already has been really cut out for him.

Last week 'Good Oil' had a brief lunch with Matic whilst on a flash, (business not Soccer) visit to Sydney from Adelaide.

Matic for this coming season has already lost midfielders Dino Mennillo (Auckland Kings) and David Terminello (Carlton), Travis Dodd (Newcastle), Brad Hassell (in England on trials), and defender Bradley Armour (Adelaide Sharks).



Zoran Matic ... forced to re-build the 'Black and Whites.'

Aggravating Matic's already serious situation is that his international goalkeeper Jason Petkovic is also missing from training sessions.

The excellent custodian is currently in Europe on trials and his future with the 'Black and Whites' is now in real doubt.

Matic was thus forced to move quickly and made just two signings in a desperate effort to plug up some alarming gaps to his squad.

Signed up are Adelaide's 'favourite son' Aurelio Vidmar, plus the lanky defender from Canberra Cosmos, Ivan Zelic.

□♦♦♦

Sydney Olympic this weekend travels to Bathurst to play an exhibition match on Sunday.

Olympic's lanky marker Ante Juric who recently returned from trials in Croatia with two clubs, is believed to have been offered a two year contract with HNK Rijeka.

But Juric considered the monetary terms offered over there as not being worth while to make the move, considering he still has a year of his Uni degree to complete.



Mehmet Durakovic

Juric was expected to be released by Olympic for the coming season.

However Olympic now has found itself with a most worrying dearth of central defenders and would be most reluctant to set Juric free.

Stopper or sweeper Adam Ciantar has already broken down at pre-season training



Ivan Kelic

By John Economos

and now remains in serious doubt for the entire new season.

Skilled defender or midfielder Milan Blagojevic has departed to the Parramatta Power last month.



Ante Juric ... Could now remain at Olympic.

Worse still, and as already reported two weeks ago by ABSW, Olympic's classy international sweeper or marker Mehmet Durakovic, has returned to Melbourne and will not re-appear for Olympic due to a serious illness within his immediate family.

□♦♦♦



Jimmy Mackay ... Dinner in Testimony by 'Club '74'.

The 'CLUB 74', will hold its second bi-annual World Cup 74 reunion dinner on Tuesday August 24th with the theme being 'A Testimony - to Jimmy Mackay' who passed away December 11th last year.

The testimonial dinner will be staged at 'Vinnies' Ristorante, in the outer western suburb of Sydney, Casula.

Jimmy's



Johnny Warren

fabulous long range, and the match's sole goal scored in Hong Kong that indelible and historic evening of November 13th back in 1973, enabled Australia to defeat South Korea.

It was to prove to be Australia's most valuable goal ever scored for our nation, for it was that goal that ultimately kicked our national team for the first, and only time, into the World Cup Finals.

Information and bookings for tickets to this testimonial dinner can be made as from this week by calling 'R.R. Football International' on 02-98261-308, or 0416-288-627.

□♦♦♦

Marconi's Soccer administrator Frank Labbozzetta returned last week from a flash visit to Italy where he had hoped to sign up 1990 World Cup star, 'the Prince' Giuseppe Giannini as guest player.

However the former A.S. Roma attacking midfielder international, declined as he looks like staying with southern Italian club Lecce which has won promotion to the Italian Serie A.

But Labbozzetta's trip was not fruitless as he now almost certainly expects to sign up another Italian star for Marconi.

Expected to arrive at the 'Palace' sometime next week, is the player going by the name Digia.

□♦♦♦

It's with utmost regret that 'Good Oil' informs our readers that Soccer identity Mr Kevin D'Arcy, has recently passed away.

Mr D'Arcy was well known acting as field Marshall at all Sydney grounds for touring teams to Australia.

Our sincere condolences are now extended to his family.

□♦♦♦



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Applications close 27th August 1999



Frank Labbozzetta ... Marconi's Soccer Administrator.

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Australian Features

Ante Covic joins the exodus of top Aussie keepers



By Mark Stavroulakis

I came here to be number one. Those were the words former Marconi custodian Ante Covic stated as he arrived in Thessaloniki in Greece to link up with Greek giants Paok.

There was speculation before the Ericsson Cup that Ante would have trials in Europe as he felt that it was time to try his luck abroad, this he did and now finds himself in one of the biggest clubs in Greece.

This transfer however, was not your everyday over the phone manager setup, this turned into a James Bond style movie where Ante was at the centre of attention, and getting things he'd only dream of.

Now-a-days, video footages of players are all that's needed in order to strike up a deal with a player.

With today's technology, the art of

the Leichardt Tigers in the N.S.W. Super League, to one of the biggest clubs in Australia, namely Marconi.

Gidopoulos was convinced that he was the man for the job, thus contacting FIFA Manager Michael Fotiou to go

Dutch International, but Batatoudis halted those talks in order to sign and gain the signature of this young, up and coming youngster, Ante Covic.

Also another sign of Paok's eagerness to sign Ante was the fact that 2 players, Persi Olivares (Peruvian International), and Mario Jerman former Sydney United player were released by the club.

This was done because Paok had 5 foreigners already, and wanted to make room for the inclusion of Covic.

The Greek bound Keeper arrived back at Sydney on the 29th of July, to attend a family wedding and also to orga-

nize his personal things and belongings in order to leave for Greece again, for a permanent start to his terrific career.

I was at hand to obtain Ante's final words before he departed Australia. "Greece is a different world.

"I've never imagined that soccer in Australia and soccer in Greece was so far from each other. The fans of Paok are far more supportive and fanatical than here.

"The owners of Paok spend as much money as they want in order for them to have an A-class side this year as it is tipped to be one of the clubs best.

"Not only do they want to do well in Greece, but also the fact that Paok has qualified for the UEFA stages is really good as now I can show my ability to the whole of Europe.

"My dream has come true, as a youngster I dreamed of playing in the football pitches of Europe, now what's left for me is to make the best out of it and to do well".

One of Ante's coaches, who was there at the start of his illustrious career was none other than the influential "Kat" himself, former Soccerroo Peter Katholos.

The "Kat" realized Ante's potential from the start of his career with Leichardt Tigers, as coach of the team he knew that this lad had the potential of becoming a big star. "Ante was a talent from the start, I knew he had a big future in the game.

"He showed his class in the Ericsson Cup with Marconi, and now he will go one step further in making a big name for himself in Europe.

"I wish Ante all the best, and hope that all his dreams and ambitions are

fulfilled in his European career".

Peter Katholos also stated before Ante moved to the Ericsson Cup, many clubs were on the verge of signing this now international bound player.

Sydney Olympic and believe it or not Marconi, did not want the services of Covic.

Zoran Matic thought that Ante wasn't ready, that's until General Manager of Marconi Frank Labozzetta stepped in. He knew the potential Covic possessed thus signing him up on the spot".

"My dream has come true, as a youngster I dreamed of playing in the football pitches of Europe, now what's left for me is to make the best out of it and to do well"

Highlight reels of shot stopping, penalty saving, spectacular acrobatics were Ante's main fortay in constructing his own personal video.

This of course was all given to a manager in Europe, who then showed it

ahead with the Covic signing.

Something that was unbelievable to say the least was the fact that Ante's video was sent and seen by Gidopoulos on the 25th of June, on the 29th Covic boarded an Olympic Airways plane bound to Greece in order to try his luck.

Ante met up with Gidopoulos at his very own café (Cataralla) in Glyfada, known to be one of the hot water front spots in Greece, especially in summer.

The former Marconi keeper was in the process of having talks with Stratos, who expressed his interest in signing the Sydney lad up as soon and as quick as possible.

The 23 year old was of course overwhelmed at the fact that never in his life has a club like Paok, been so supportive and so assuring that now he knew it was about time to make the step up to the big leagues.

From Stratos' café, Ante was picked up by a helicopter to Naousa, and was sent to Paok's pre-season training ground called 3/5 Pigadia.

It was there Ante met the head coach of Paok, Ari Haan, a former Dutch international, who told the young star to give it his best shot and to impress him as much as he can.

This Ante did. Haan was impressed at this lad's composure and guile and knew that he was the man for the number one jersey.

Haan was not only impressed by Covic's game, but also the fact that he was a true gentleman which Haan liked a lot.

Ante trained 10 days with the team, putting on some tremendous performances, that Haan insisted Covic to venture with the squad to Germany for pre-season matches.

It was these pre-season games that made Covic stand out as a force to be reckoned with, as not only did he impress the coach, he also impressed billionaire Paok's President, George Batatoudis.

In one of the matches, Ante showed his class by saving 2 penalties thus putting him in the forum of being the number one choice goalkeeper.

At that time however, Paok were heavily into talks with a Bulgarian and

to a number of interested clubs wanting a top class keeper.

As soon as General Manager of Greek 1st Division Side Paok, Stratos Gidopoulos saw this, he was clearly amazed at this young man's ability and quickly took note of this keeper.

It was only a few minutes old until



Marconi star Ante Covic has joined the growing list of Aussies playing abroad joining Greek side, PAOK.

creating a well-documented video is enough to make you look like the number one player in the world.

Covic's desire to play abroad inspired him to conduct his own home video, showing his highlights from when he first made a name in soccer at



The Kat, Peter Katholos realised Ante's potential from a young age.

The contract was believed to have been around \$300,000 a year, this included a house, a car, and airfare tickets to and from Sydney.

Also a 10% increase in his four-year contract per year, so all this works out quite well for the towering goalkeeper.

The mass exodus of players moving abroad has again hit hard in the hearts of the soccer world in Australia.

Many players now are trailing in Europe and the increase in the leaving of players has risen highly. Ante is one of many big stars in Europe earning a living as a professional goalkeeper.

The likes of Bosnich, Shewatzer, Kalac, Filan and the list goes on for the ever present Australian goalkeepers playing on the pitches of Europe.

ABSW wishes Ante the best, and hopefully a green and gold jumper beckons for this up and coming star, and hope that he has a solid season in cementing a first team spot at Paok.

Anyone who had the opportunity to witness Ante at any games of his career here in Australia are lucky enough to have done so as this marvel of a keeper will make it to the big leagues!



Australian Features

HOPKINS TO LEAD GIPPSLAND

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Gippsland Falcons last week announced Jeff Hopkins as their new coach for the upcoming Ericsson Cup season.

Hopkins takes over from previous coach, Stuart Munro, who accepted the coaching job at Carlton.

It is his first coaching appointment, and he's delighted to secure the job at Gippsland.

"I've always wanted to get into coaching," said Hopkins, "there's a lot of work to be done, but I'm very pleased."

The former Crystal Palace and Reading defender joined the Falcons at the start of last season from Malaysian club Selangor.

Hopkins, capped 16 times by Wales, will continue to play with the Falcons.

"I think it'll be a good transition, moving to coaching and playing at the same time and it's a good chance to guide a few of the younger lads who

hopefully, will have benefited from the experience they gained last season.

"There's some good young players here and it'll be important to have some senior players around them."

The Falcons were a major disappointment last season, finishing second from bottom as well as being the league's lowest goalscorers.

They lost both Joe Tricarico and Archie Thompson to Carlton at different stages last year.

That left just Marko Perinovic and Sash Becvinovski as the only recognised front-men in the first team squad, but they could only manage three goals between them.

Hopkins said that it was his main priority to get a striker who will score goals, plus another defender.

He's only just walked into the job, but Hopkins already has a few players in mind that he'd like to bring to the club.

"If we can keep all the players who are here then we'd need to bring in another three or four more players.

"Last season our first eleven was quite competitive, but beyond that we struggled a bit.

"You can't always play your preferred eleven so we need some strength in our depth."

Hopkins has taken in some Victorian Premier League games and is sifting through players resumes.

"Players have been recommended to me and I've seen some Premier League games just to gauge the standard as compared to the National League.

"Once I get things up and running, I'll be getting a few guys down here on trial to take a closer look at them.

"There's only a couple of (Premier League) rounds left so I'll be getting to as many games as I can."

Getting some of the current players to sign new contracts is just another task Hopkins is faced with."

Hopkins believes that, with the right additions to the squad, that the Falcons can improve on their efforts last season.

"If we can keep all the players from last season and bring in three players who I believe will be good for us, then there's no reason why we can't be successful.



Jeff Hopkins... the new boss at Gippsland

"I'd like to be mid-way in the table at the half-way point of the league and then reassess where we're at around Christmas time, that's as far as I'm looking at the moment.

"But it all depends on what players we can get in."

SOUTH STRENGTHEN CHAMPIONSHIP SQUAD

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Champions South Melbourne have made two additions to their squad in recent weeks. Anthony Magnacca, who played with Canberra Cosmos last season, joins the champions from Victorian Premier League side Sunshine Georgies.

Coach Ange Postecoglou has also secured the services of Richie Alagich, once of the Adelaide Sharks and a former Young Socceroo.

Goalkeeper of the Year, Michael Petkovic, is in Europe trialing with French first division side Strasbourg.

Olympiakos defender Con Blatsis is also overseas, trying out with Greek champions, Olympiakos.

South have everyone else but Goran Lozanovski and Steve Panopoulos signed up though the duo have agreed terms with the club.

Postecoglou said that Magnacca and Alagich were likely to be the only two signing's made by the club.

However, should either Petkovic or Blatsis stay in Europe, then Postecoglou would look for replacements.

South doesn't have any friendly matches arranged at this stage, preferring instead to wait for the pre-season Tynan-Eyre Cup which will begin on August 29.

And South have appointed former Melbourne Knights general manager, Damien Phillips, after Peter Filopoulos left to take up a position with Hawthorn Football Club.

St Albans Saints striker Harry Karl could be set for another chance in the Ericsson Cup when he begins a trial with Marconi Fairfield some time this week.

Marconi coach Frank Farina said he knew very little of Karl and wanted to take a closer look at him after he was recommended to the Stallions coach.

Karl has also attracted the interest of two other NSL clubs, Perth Glory and Sydney United.

Last season in the Victorian Premier League, Karl's 22 goals propelled St Albans to the minor premiership and a place in the Grand Final, which they eventually lost to Bulleen.

His goalscoring exploits tempted the Knights into signing him, despite interest from other NSL clubs.

Karl scored five goals for the Knights before returning to St Albans.

This season, he has once again been one of the Premier League's best marksmen, notching 20 goals in a role where he has been playing by himself up front for the Saints.



Harry Karl is off to trial with Marconi.



Stuart Munro... the Carlton coach has brought well during the off season.

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Carlton have been very busy in the transfer market during the off season and the trend will continue according to coach Stuart Munro.

Munro has already signed Dave McPherson from Scottish Premier Division side, Hearts, by far the biggest investment that the club has made and the most experienced player.

Munro however has brought some local talent including David Terminello from Adelaide City, Craig Deans from Perth Glory and Andrew Packer from the Brisbane Strikers but the clubs spending spree is still yet to continue.

Late last week, Munro confirmed that two more signing's were imminent, with the possibility of a third closer to the start of the new season.

"One of the players is a 32 year old striker who has played in the English First and Second division's for a number of years now" said Munro.

"He still has a year to run on his current contract but he's told his club that he wants to come to Australia.

"His wife is from Melbourne so there wouldn't be any problems with getting a visa, he'd be a permanent resident."

Along with the experienced striker, Munro has also been talking to a left-sided player from Britain to also

MUNRO BUYS UP BIG FOR CARLTON

join the ranks at Carlton.

"I think we need to have experienced players in these positions. We've got these sort of players and, although they're good players, they're just not experienced enough yet.

"We're a bit short of guys who play out wide. Last season they lost Andy Vlahos and now with (Marco) Bresciano going, we need some

players who can fill those positions" Munro said.

Exciting prospect Josh Kennedy will also be given a contract by the Blues once his commitments with the AIS are over.

Munro also reported that Deans is recovering well from a shoulder operation, required after he dislocated it playing for Perth Glory in last seasons finals series.

Carlton will take on Premier League side Fawcner Blues tomorrow night in a pre-season friendly before leaving for a four-game tour of China on Saturday.



Marco Bresciano has been a big loss for Carlton.



Con Blatsis and Michael Petkovic are trialing overseas.

Australian Features

Joondalup rise to second

Western Australian Premier League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fremantle City	17	12	3	2	44	20	39
ECU Joondalup	17	11	3	3	45	18	36
Sorrento	17	9	4	4	44	24	31
Western Knights	17	9	3	5	42	26	30
Bayswater City Panthers	17	7	5	5	22	16	26
Floreat Athena	17	7	3	7	38	34	24
Inglewood Falcons	17	7	3	7	24	25	24
Perth SC	17	6	3	8	19	23	21
Ashfield-Bunbury	16	5	2	9	19	43	17
Stirling Lions	17	4	2	11	27	45	14
Cockburn City	16	3	4	9	23	40	13
Kingsway Olympic	17	2	3	12	16	48	9



SOCCER
WEST COAST

Premier Results

Sorrento	.....1	Floreat Athena	.....3
Stirling Lions	.....0	Fremantle City	.....2
Bayswater City Panthers	.....1	Kingsway Olympic	.....2
ECU Joondalup	.....2	Perth SC	.....0
Ashfield Bunbury	.....0	Inglewood Falcons	.....2

Raiders drop to fourth

South Australian Premier League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cumberland United	21	11	5	5	34	28	38
Port Adelaide Lion	21	11	4	6	45	30	37
Campbelltown City	21	11	4	6	47	33	37
Raiders	21	11	4	6	33	23	37
Elizabeth City	21	11	4	6	38	29	37
West Torrens Birkall	21	10	2	9	41	43	32
White City Warriors	21	9	5	7	33	36	32
Croydon	21	8	7	6	46	30	31
Adelaide Blue Eagles	21	7	6	8	31	28	27
Modbury	21	7	2	12	37	47	23
Para Hills Knights	21	4	5	12	25	43	17
Olympians	21	0	4	17	23	63	4

Premier Results

Cumberland United	.....1	West Torrens Birkall	.....2
White City Warriors	.....2	Olympians	.....2
Port Adelaide Lion	.....2	Adelaide Blue Eagles	.....1
Modbury	.....2	Para Hills Knights	.....0
Campbelltown City	.....2	Croydon	.....1
Elizabeth City	.....2	Raiders	.....0



Have Your Say ...

Dear Sir,

Top Canberra band Ice Cream Headache have just completed recording what is believed to be Australian football's first CD — and one bound to be our code's finest recording yet!



Ice Cream Headache

With lyrics and match commentary by Canberra supporter Chris Kunz, the CD titled 'Canberra Cosmos Supporters' Anthem & Chants' will feature three tracks:

- ▶ Canberra Cosmos Supporters' Anthem (a rock n' roll piece)
- ▶ Anthem — Dance Version, and
- ▶ The Chants

The 'Anthem' is as much a tribute to the real football as it is to Canberra and the Cosmos.

'The Chants' were recorded two weeks ago by Cosmos supporters, including Soccer Canberra President Steve Doszpot and former Cosmos caretaker coach Tony Brennan.

The CD is set for release through outlets of The Music Shop in Canberra in the first week of September and is likely to sell out, particularly at its price of \$9.95!

Interstate football fans can reserve their copy by sending a cheque for \$13.20 (including postage and handling) to the Canberra Cosmos Supporters Club, PO Box 67, Deakin West ACT 2600.

Canberrans can reserve a copy by phoning Wilhelmina Kemperman on (H) (02) 6295 9848 or email Willik@NGA.gov.au

Chris Kunz
Higgins, ACT

Dear Sir,

If Soccer Australia's officials are fair dinkum about picking a national coach for the senior national side this

month and are not playing ducks and drakes with the media, there are only two or three choices.

Now that Roy Hodgson and other overseas coaches are being ruled out because of cost, they are in my own personal order, David Mitchell, Frank Farina and Eddie Krynecic. If David is now unavailable due to his signing up with Parramatta Power, then Frank is the next best in line.

Let's just hope that his sometimes outspoken comments are not held against him, or that I have given him the kiss of death with my public support. As long as he can command the respect of the overseas based players, age should not be a hindrance.

After all the last man, and only one to take Australia to a World Cup final was in his thirties also, back

then. If the appointment is going to be in August, then

whoever gets the job, must have the Olyroo job as well. For a lot of those players (up to ten or so) will be needed for the senior World Cup squad the following year and beyond.

Whoever misses out should be groomed to take over the youth sides (Under 20's and Under 17's) from Les Scheinflug eventually, if he wants the job.

Dominic Scullino,
Nerang, Qld.

Dear Sir,

First of all I would like to say that I used to admire Simon Micallef's refereeing, but the reputation he built since he started as a referee was lost in those ninety minutes between Australia B team and Manchester so called team of the century United.

He didn't see that tackle by Cole when the ball was only feet away.

About this so called team of the century our memories seems to be very short. Imagines if they did a Real Madrid seven times European Champions.

Thank You

Dear Sir,

Just a short note on behalf of Club Marconi Under 11s players, parents and officials. I would like to express our sincere thanks to your publication and in particular your reporter John Economos for the superb coverage we received regarding our recent trip to Queensland.

Everybody at our club was delighted with the exposure we received.

It was a delight to have Mr Economos as a guest on this tour for not only in the professional manner in which he conducted himself both in and out of work mode and his experience of having been part of large touring groups certainly was of benefit to us all.

The players will treasure for the rest of their lives the memories about this trip along with all material that was printed by your fine publication.

Thank You ABSW.

Ricky Chiellini
Under 11s
Club Marconi

Dear Sir,

I'm Jack Belardo am writing a brief letter thanking you on my behalf as well as my U/12 Marconi team members for the great feature and all over coverage and photos in your ABSW Soccer Weekly issues, over the past few weeks.

It was certainly a great morale booster for the squad, and also a big thanks to your reporter John Economos for his great write-ups which made the team proud of the achievements for their 'Brisbane Soccer Challenge' and their future soccer.

Jack Belardo
Coach Under 12s
Club Marconi

It took them more than 30 years to win two European Cups. True 1999 was their year. Now let's see how long they hold on to the Crown.

J. Muscat,
Melb. Vic.

Dear Sir,

If SA is really serious about implementing a strict criteria for clubs participating in the 2000-2001 NSL season then I have a suggestion that will save much time and effort.

During the upcoming NSL season make it mandatory that all NSL clubs provide up to the minute and accurate crowd figures with matching gate takings from each home match.

Failure to do so should incur an instant demerit point that will count against the offending club (or clubs) should they reapply to participate in the 2000-2001 season.

AFL clubs have always provided crowd and gate takings figures in most cases because it is the only accurate and foolproof way to assess each clubs true situation.

As far as I'm aware Perth Glory was the only NSL club to follow this procedure up until recent times.

NSL clubs whose crowd and gate takings figures would make good reading include Gippsland, Carlton, Melbourne Knights, Adelaide Sharks, Adelaide City, Wollongong, Sydney United and Marconi.

Because the matter goes to the heart of the problem you can almost bet your life that SA will never give it the slightest serious consideration TV coverage of NSL is a contentious issue with SEVEN the "claytons" soccer network having palmed off the NSL to the ABC.

With a NZ team in the NSL now what form will the coverage take in the new season. Steve (ABC) Robilliard last season came very close to winning the award as the worst soccer commentator in the English speaking world.

As Winton Rufer graphically pointed out in ABSW until now any sort of TV coverage of soccer in NZ has been limited or non-existent.

It would be a real shame that if for the first time ever NZ is going to receive a regular TV coverage of soccer in the form of the NSL with Steve Robilliard as commentator.

Surely NZ's long deprived soccer fans deserve better.

R. Melor,
Bondi, NSW

Australian Features



Diegos: "Congratulations on your Man of the Match performance against Manchester United at Stadium Australia."

"How did you feel about your performance and what was it like kicking Nicky Butt's butt?"

Wehrman: "I don't know whether I kicked Nicky Butt's butt but all the same, I was pretty happy with my game. I didn't think that I attacked as well as I could've but I thought I defended fairly well."

"I was just happy to walk away with a good performance. They were obviously pretty good opposition so it was satisfying not to get our backside kicked as everybody expected."

Diegos: "A human interest question; which Manchester United player do you hate the most?"

Wehrman: "Hate the most? I don't really hate any of them. I thought that they deserved a lot of respect because of their achievements."

"I suppose that they were a little snobby at times and I must admit that my least favorite player at the moment is Andy Cole because of the bad tackle he laid on Simon (Colossimo)."

"In hindsight, if I had my chance again, he'd probably be the one that I would most like to kick."

Diegos: "The Aussie team copped a hammering in the lead up to the series, with many pundits declaring that it was no more than a fourth string 'Green and Gold' combination."

"Was this motivation enough for the team to play as well as it did in the second

This week we sit back, relax and share a Soft Sombrero moment with our Diegos guest of the week one of Australia's most exciting young soccer prospects.

He is an Olyroo and Socceroo and was named Telstra Man of the Match against the world's greatest club side — Manchester United. Please give a big Four Diegos welcome to new Perth Glory recruit — Kasey Wehrman.



FROM STRIKER TO SANDGROPER

game or did coach, Raul Blanco, have to deliver one of his 'Mad Mexican' pre-game pep talks to get the boys up for the contest?"

Wehrman: "I think that the articles in the paper were enough to get the guys going. In the second game we were hoping for a really good 1-1 result."

"We would've been really stoked about a score-line like that. 1-0 in the end was a good effort but the boys weren't really happy about losing the game."

"I think if we are to play a game it shouldn't be treated as a friendly, it should be played to its maximum."

"If the ball is there to be won, whether we're playing Manchester United or someone else, our policy in the future will be to play as tough as we can so that we don't get injuries."

"A lot of the press from Melbourne and Sydney was quite negative and it definitely got me pumped up to play harder."

Diegos: "The feisty Socceroo performance against the 'Red Devils' was dampened somewhat by the horrific injury to your Olyroo teammate, Simon Colossimo. What was your view of the incident?"

Wehrman: "At the time I didn't actually see it. I didn't even see it on the replay but I saw it later on."

"The Olyroo boys do play fairly strong and tough. When you play a team like Manchester United in an exhibition they clearly make it known that they don't want to get hurt."

"They were more concerned about themselves rather than us. As we were going in for tackles, they would say to us 'take it easy young fella, I don't want to get injured' and that kind of stuff, so we decided if the ball was there to be won we will try to do so without going over the top."

"For Andy Cole to do what he did after asking us to take it easy, really got us upset and wanting to get stuck in."

Diegos: "Aussie dynamo,

Danny Tiatto had a few choice words for the culprit, Manchester United striker, Andy Cole."

"With your 'Romper Stomper' haircut and ruggedly handsome face that only your mother could love, did you try and exact your own form of sweet revenge on Cole?"

Wehrman: "After seeing the tackle later, I felt a few of the other players could've got stuck into Cole a little bit more."

"When Danny Tiatto went up and said a

few words to him, I think it livened up the game a lot more for the crowd and the players."

"I think if we are to play a game it shouldn't be treated as a friendly, it should be played to its maximum."

"If the ball is there to be won, whether we're playing Manchester United or someone else, our policy in the future will be to play as tough as we can so that we don't get injuries."

Diegos: "You burst onto the scene a few years ago under Frank Farina at Brisbane Strikers. You like scoring goals from downtown and in your early days, you used to like to celebrate each strike with a Nadia Comaneci triple somersault with a twist."

"Is the gymnastic floor routine still in your goal celebration repertoire, and has it ever all gone wrong, where you've landed on your head rather than your feet?"

Wehrman: "No it hasn't gone wrong yet but I came close when I almost went overboard on a slippery surface at South Melbourne once."

"There wasn't much to do up where I come from in North Queensland when I was growing up so my mates and I used to tumble around a lot and put holes in my friend's parents' walls."

"I suppose this is where I learnt it. It is still part of my routine because it's always good to score goals."

Diegos: "Over the off season you have transferred from the Brisbane Strikers Banana Benders, to the Perth Glory Sandgropers."

"What led to the move and is it a precursor to a move overseas?"

Wehrman: "Hopefully a move overseas in the future but for now, I made the move because of the set up of the whole Perth Glory club. Brisbane Strikers won the Grand final two years ago and have really not capitalised on that achievement."

"I've got to make a career out of soccer so I can't wait around for Brisbane to get their act together."

"Perth have a good coach, good players and a professional set up, much like overseas. In this respect the move will help me to become more attuned to full time professional football."

Diegos: "In the big challenge against the Brazilian Olympic team in 1998 and again in the recent two match series against Manchester United, the Olyroo boys showed that they won't be intimidated by any opposition. The self-belief is almost tangible and rare for an Aussie team."

"Do the Olyroo boys believe that they can go all the way at the Olympics next year?"

Wehrman: "I think so, definitely. We've been together for a long time but I suppose the final squad has not been settled yet."

"The squad will be made up of a lot of players from overseas with a good proportion of Aussie based players."

"We do play a very tough game. We don't like anyone coming into our own backyard, thinking that they can walk all over the top of us."

"It doesn't matter if it's Brazil, Argentina or England, we want to show them that Aussie soccer players are just as tough as what they are."

"Australians have always had that tough mentality but now we



Kasey Wehrman in action for the Soccerroos in the recent games against Manchester United.

are skilful as well, so if we have mix it physically we will and if we have to play good football we are quite capable of doing that as well."

Diegos: "Thanks Kasey. Good luck in the land of the Sandgropers. Now you might be able to practice your goal celebration floor routine in safety on the Glory Jumping Castle. Adios Amigo."

Wehrman: "Thanks Diegos. The Jumping Castle will be great. I was getting sick and tired of falling on my head. Adios Diegos."



Wehrman has left the Strikers to join the Glory Boys in Perth.

The Four Diegos' are radio celebrities and soccer scribes on Melbourne's Stereo 97.4 FM Saturday 10 am - 12 midday. E-Mail 'The Diegos' on FourDiegos@bigpond.com

NSW Soccer Federation



DOUNIS BREAKS DEADLOCK

A dogged First Division preliminary semi-final at the Rockdale Soccer Centre ended in fading light when a golden goal by Louis Dounis broke the deadlock between St George and Stanmore, who had failed to trouble the scorers during normal time and seven minutes of stoppage time.

Negovan Stefanoski put the Lions a goal up in the 38th minute, but seconds before the break Garth Tehliwec put the Panthers level and further goals from Alan Picken and Danny Hinton in the 60th and 85th minutes saw the Penrith side home and into the Minor semi final next week against Stanmore.

St George will now go on to meet premiers Manly-Warringah in the Major Semi Final.

In Second Division action, three of the four matches finished as draws.

Hajduk Wanderers were the exception recording a comfortable 2-0 win over Mount Pritchard.

The win keeps their slim premiership hopes alive as they run into the last weeks of the league.

Sydney District drew 2-2 with Mount Druitt, to now be four points adrift of Sunday's winner.

Hills United stay cemented at the bottom of the table.

Greystanes and Arncliffe and Hurstville and Uni of NSW both drew, the first pair scoreless and the second featuring in a 1-1 draw, where Hurstville had a player sent off in the first

half but still battled away with 10 men to collect the vital point.

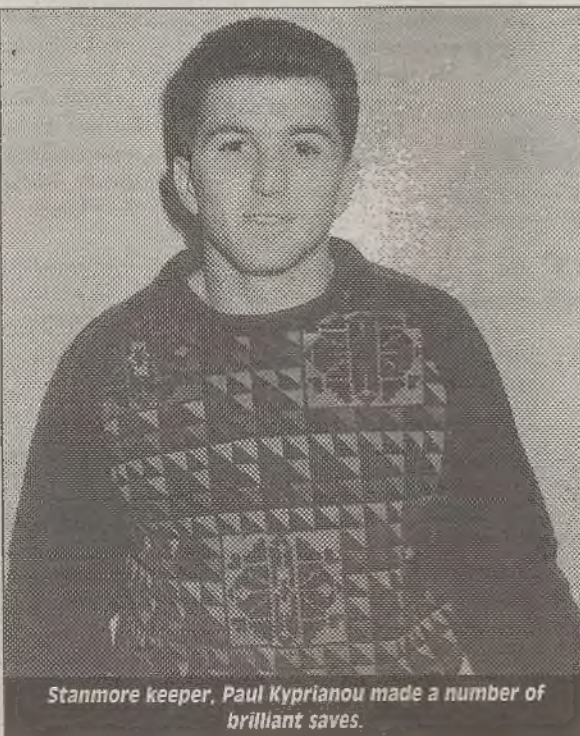


Stanmore's Louis Dounis, pictured here playing for Canterbury/Marrickville many years ago, scored his team's winner on the weekend seven minutes into stoppage time.

Dounis latched onto a through pass from Alex Araujo to go on and beat the keeper with a very cool finish after being left unmarked on the left of the box for the first time in the game.

Stanmore's keeper Paul Kyprianou had made a number of brilliant, finger tip saves, especially early in the game, to keep Stanmore in the hunt, but even he had no answer to the low precision finish by the old campaigner Dounis.

In the elimination semi final at Lynwood Park, the Penrith Panthers came from a goal down to beat Illawarra Lions 3-1, the third time the men from the mountains had beaten the South Coast side by a two goal margin this term.



Stanmore keeper, Paul Kyprianou made a number of brilliant saves.

DIVISION ONE: PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL

FIRST GRADE: St George 1 bt Stanmore Hawks 0.
UNDER 21: St George 3 bt Penrith Panthers 0.
UNDER 18: Penrith Panthers 1 bt Moorebank Sports 0.

ELIMINATION SEMI FINAL

FIRST GRADE: Penrith Panthers 3 (G Tehliwec 43m A Picken 60m D Hinton 85m) bt Illawarra Lions 1 (N Stepovski 38m).

UNDER 21: AC United 2 bt Moorebank Sports 1.
UNDER 18: Stanmore Hawks 1 bt Manly Warringah 0.

DIVISION TWO

FIRST GRADE: Hurstville ZSC 1 drew University of NSW 1, Greystanes 0 drew Arncliffe Scots 0, Hajduk Wanderers 2 bt Mt Pritchard 0, Sydney District 2 drew Mt Druitt Town 2, Hills United 4 bt Belmore Hercules 1, Fraser Park 4 bt Sydney University 2.

UNDER 21: Hurstville ZSC 6 University of NSW 1, Greystanes 10 bt Arncliffe Scots 0, Hajduk Wanderers 3 bt Mt Pritchard 2, Mt Druitt Town 7 bt Sydney District 0, Hills United 5 bt Belmore Hercules 0, Sydney University 2 drew Fraser Park 2.

UNDER 18: Hurstville ZSC 2 bt University of NSW 1, Greystanes 4 bt Arncliffe Scots 0, Hajduk Wanderers 1 bt Mt Pritchard 0, Mt Druitt Town 16 bt Sydney District 0, Hills United vs Belmore Hercules Postponed, Fraser Park 2 bt Sydney University 0.

DIVISION THREE

FIRST GRADE: The Wanderers 5 bt White City 1, Camden Tigers 2 bt Western Sydney Lions 1, Hakoah 2 bt Parramatta City 1, Trasandinos 2 bt Colo Colo 0, Gladesville United 2 bt Liverpool City 1, Prospect United 4 bt Maroubra United 2.

SECOND GRADE: The Wanderers 4 bt White City 1, Camden Tigers 1 bt Western Sydney Lions 0, Hakoah 3 bt Parramatta City 1, Trasandinos 6 bt Colo Colo 5, Gladesville United 5 bt Liverpool City 2, Maroubra United 2 bt Prospect United 1.

DIVISION FOUR

FIRST GRADE: Holy Cross Ryde 3 bt Nepean District 1, Sydney Crescent Star 2 drew CSI Schofields 2, Prarieewood United 3 bt White Valley 0, Springwood 1 bt Hawkesbury City 0, Eastern Creek Pioneers 4 bt United Eagles 1, United Eagles 5 bt White Valley 0, Nepean District 2 bt CSI Schofields 0, Granville Greenisland 3 bt Hawkesbury City 0, Granville Greenisland 2 bt Auburn Star 0, Balmain 2 bt Marrickville 0.

SECOND GRADE: Holy Cross Ryde 1 bt Nepean District 0, Balmain 4 bt Marrickville 3, CSI Schofields 4 bt Sydney Crescent Star 2, Prarieewood United 4 bt White Valley 1, Hawkesbury City 2 bt Springwood 1, United Eagles 3 bt Eastern Creek Pioneers 2, United Eagles 3 bt White Valley 0, Nepean District 4 bt CSI Schofields 2, Hawkesbury City 3 bt Granville Greenisland 0, Auburn Star 3 bt Granville Greenisland 2.

DIVISION FIVE

FIRST GRADE: UTS 3 bt Sydney United Kings 0, Lithgow Workmen 2 drew Bossy 2, Sporting SCC 5 bt Sydney TUSC 2, Homenetmen vs. Kellyville Kolts p/p, AVA United 9 bt Macquarie Sports 1, Kosciusko 6 bt Liverpool Olympic 0, Kellyville Kolts 4 bt AVA United 0.

SECOND GRADE: Sydney United Kings 1 drew UTS 1, Bossy 3 bt Lithgow Workmen 1, Sporting SCC 5 bt Sydney TUSC 1, Kellyville Kolts 7 bt Homenetmen 1, AVA United 7 bt Macquarie Sports 2, Kosciusko 3 bt Liverpool Olympic 2, Kellyville Kolts 2 drew AVA United 2.

WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE: Marconi Fairfield 9 bt Central Coast 0, NNSW ITC/Academy 2 bt UWS Macarthur Rams 0, Gladesville Ravens 4 bt Sydney United 1, NNSW ITC/Academy 3 bt Nepean Panthers 0.

UNDER 21: Marconi Fairfield 5 bt Central Coast 0, NNSW ITC/Academy 5 bt UWS Macarthur Rams 0, Sydney United 1 drew Gladesville Ravens 1, NNSW ITC/Academy 6 bt Nepean Panthers 0.

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE: St George 3 bt Bankstown Association 0, Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 1 drew Eastern Suburbs 1, Manly Warringah 9 bt Roselands 1.

UNDER 19: Eastern Suburbs 5 bt Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 2, Roselands 2 bt Manly Warringah 0, St George 3 bt Bankstown Association 0.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

UNDER 13: Leichhardt Tigers 1 bt Central Coast 0, Leichhardt Tigers 1 bt Sutherland Sharks 0, Manly Warringah 1 drew Gladesville Hornsby 1, Blacktown City 3 bt Parramatta Eagles 1, Sydney Olympic 3 bt Sydney United 1, Southern Branch 4 bt Macarthur Rams 1, Southern Districts 3 bt Central Coast 0, Wollongong Wolves 2 bt Newcastle Breakers 0, Marconi Fairfield 3 bt Eastern Suburbs 1.

UNDER 14: Leichhardt Tigers 5 bt Central Coast 0, Leichhardt Tigers 3 bt Sutherland Sharks 2, Gladesville Hornsby 2 bt Manly Warringah 1, Parramatta Eagles 1 drew Blacktown City 1, Sydney Olympic 6 bt Sydney United 0, Macarthur Rams 1 drew Southern Branch 1, Southern Districts 4 bt Central Coast 0, Newcastle Breakers 3 bt Wollongong Wolves 1, Marconi Fairfield 8 bt Eastern Suburbs 1.

UNDER 15: Central Coast 1 drew Leichhardt Tigers 1, Leichhardt Tigers 1 bt Sutherland Sharks 0, Gladesville Hornsby 4 bt Manly Warringah 0, Parramatta Eagles 1 bt Blacktown City 0, Sydney United 3 bt Sydney Olympic 2, Southern Branch 2 bt Macarthur Rams 1, Central Coast 3 bt Southern Districts 2, Newcastle Breakers 4 bt Wollongong Wolves 2, Marconi Fairfield 2 bt Eastern Suburbs 0.

UNDER 16: Central Coast 2 drew Leichhardt Tigers 2, Leichhardt Tigers 5 bt Sutherland Sharks 2, Gladesville Hornsby 3 bt Manly Warringah 0, Parramatta Eagles 1 bt Blacktown City 0, Sydney Olympic 3 bt Sydney United 2, Macarthur Rams 2 bt Southern Branch 1, Southern Districts 3 bt Central Coast 0, Wollongong Wolves 0 drew Newcastle Breakers 0, Eastern Suburbs 2 drew Marconi Fairfield 2.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE

UNDER 13: Ryde City 2 bt Canterbury Association 1, Bankstown Association 2 bt AC United 0, Penrith Panthers 2 bt Canterbury M'Ville 1, Bankstown Association 2 bt Rockdale City 0, Ryde City 5 bt Fairfield Bulls 0, St George 1 drew AC United 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 drew Blacktown Association 1, Stanmore Hawks 2 bt Canterbury Association 0, Illawarra Lions 2 bt Hills United 0, Penrith Panthers 2 bt St George 0.

UNDER 14: Canterbury Association 1 bt Ryde City 0, AC United 3 bt Bankstown Association 1, Penrith Panthers 3 bt Canterbury M'Ville 0, Rockdale City 2 bt Bankstown Association 1, Ryde City 3 bt Fairfield Bulls 0, St George 2 bt AC United 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 6 bt Blacktown Association 1, Stanmore Hawks 4 bt Canterbury Association 1, Hills United 5 bt Illawarra Lions 2, St George 0 drew Penrith Panthers 0.

UNDER 15: Penrith Panthers 1 bt St George 0, Ryde City 1 bt Canterbury Association 0, Bankstown Association 1 bt AC United 0, Penrith Panthers 4 bt Canterbury M'Ville 0, Bankstown Association 2 bt Rockdale City 0, Fairfield Bulls 0 drew Ryde City 0, St George 1 bt AC United 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 bt Blacktown Association 0, Canterbury Association 4 bt Stanmore Hawks 0, Hills United 2 bt Illawarra Lions 1.

UNDER 16: Canterbury Association 4 bt Ryde City 1, St George 1 drew Penrith Panthers 1, Bankstown Association 4 bt AC United 1, Penrith Panthers 3 bt Canterbury M'Ville 1, Bankstown Association 1 bt Rockdale City 0, Fairfield Bulls 1 bt Ryde City 0, St George 1 bt AC United 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 drew Blacktown Association 0, Canterbury Association 3 bt Stanmore Hawks 1, Hills United 2 bt Illawarra Lions 0.

DIVISION TWO YOUTH LEAGUE

UNDER 13: Nepean Association 7 bt CSI Schofields 0, Macquarie Sports 0 drew Ku-Ring-Gai Association 0, Granville Association 1 bt Hajduk Wanderers 0, Mt Pritchard 1 drew Mt Druitt Town 1, Camden Tigers 2 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Hawkesbury City 2 bt Parramatta City 0, Mt Pritchard 1 bt Camden Tigers 0.

UNDER 14: Nepean Association 1 bt CSI Schofields 1, Macquarie Sports 3 bt Ku-Ring-Gai Association 2, Granville Association 5 bt Hajduk Wanderers 1, Mt Druitt Town 1 bt Mt Pritchard 0, Camden Tigers 3 bt Moorebank Sports 1, Hawkesbury City 2 bt Parramatta City 0, Mt Pritchard 2 bt Camden Tigers 1.

UNDER 15: Nepean Association 7 bt CSI Schofields 0, Macquarie Sports 2 bt Ku-Ring-Gai Association 1, Granville Association 1 drew Hajduk Wanderers 1, Mt Druitt Town 1 bt Mt Pritchard 0, Camden Tigers 2 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Parramatta City 3 bt Hawkesbury City 0, Mt Pritchard 2 bt Camden Tigers 1.

UNDER 16: Nepean Association 2 bt CSI Schofields 0, Ku-Ring-Gai Association 2 bt Macquarie Sports 1, Granville Association 2 bt Hajduk Wanderers 1, Mt Druitt Town 4 bt Mt Pritchard 1, Camden Tigers 1 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Parramatta City 2 bt Hawkesbury City 1, Mt Pritchard 3 bt Camden Tigers 2.

CADET LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

UNDER 11: Sydney United 3 bt St George 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 4 bt Eastern Suburbs 2, Parramatta Eagles 0 drew Marconi Fairfield 0, St George 9 bt Parramatta City 0, Ryde City 1 bt Macarthur Rams 0, Leichhardt Tigers 1 bt Sydney United 0.

UNDER 12: Sydney United 2 bt St George 1, Parramatta Eagles 1 drew Marconi Fairfield 1, St George 2 drew Parramatta City 2, Macarthur Rams 4 bt Ryde City 0, Sydney United 3 bt Leichhardt Tigers 0.

CADET LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

UNDER 11: Stanmore Hawks 7 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Hills United 2 bt CSI Schofields 0, Hajduk Wanderers 2 bt Mt Druitt Town 1, CSI Schofields 1 drew AC United 1, Stanmore Hawks 4 bt Mt Pritchard 1, Illawarra Lions 4 bt Hajduk Wanderers 0, Hurstville City 2 bt Moorebank Sports 1, Penrith Panthers 3 bt Hawkesbury City 1, Penrith Panthers 3 bt CSI Schofields 0, AC United 1 bt Stanmore Hawks 0, Hajduk Wanderers 1 bt Mt Pritchard 0, Hills United 3 bt Moorebank Sports 1, Hurstville City 3 bt Mt Druitt Town 0, Macquarie Sports 2 bt Hawkesbury City 0.

UNDER 12: Stanmore Hawks 2 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Hills United 1 drew CSI Schofields 1, Mt Druitt Town 2 bt Hajduk Wanderers 0, CSI Schofields 1 drew AC United 1, Stanmore Hawks 6 bt Mt Pritchard 0, Illawarra Lions 6 bt Hajduk Wanderers 0, Hurstville City 1 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Penrith Panthers 2 bt Hawkesbury City 1, CSI Schofields 3 bt Penrith Panthers 0, AC United 1 drew Stanmore Hawks 1, Hajduk Wanderers 7 bt Mt Pritchard 0, Hills United 3 bt Moorebank Sports 1, Mt Druitt Town 3 bt Hurstville City 1, Macquarie Sports 2 bt Hawkesbury City 1.

SOCCER WOMAN

WITH JANENE MARIN IN CANBERRA

U21 NORDIC CUP - REYKJAVIK '99

BATTLE AUSTRALIANS FALL TO GERMANY

GERMANY 4
(Havva Kulita 46m, 67m, Madleen Wilder 54m, Tanja Vreden 90m)
AUSTRALIA 0

A battling effort by Australia proved insufficient as they lost 4-0 to Germany on Sunday night (Aust time) in the 7th place playoff to finish bottom in the prestigious U21 Nordic Cup in Reykjavik.

Australia fought gallantly and survived the first half which was dominated territorially by Germany.

The crossbar, the post, and some good saves by Australian keeper Cassandra Kell kept the match scoreless at half-time. The Australians played effectively in patches and looked likely to hold their own going into the break, although their passing was at times astray.

But an unsettled Australia was immediately punished at the restart, Germany taking the lead 45 seconds into the half through Havva Kulita's successful shot at the near post.

Eight minutes later, Madleen Wilder struck from wide on the left, finding the far corner of the net to double Germany's advantage.

Australia fell three goals behind in the 67th minute,

Kulita scoring her second with a drive that slipped under the body of goalkeeper Kell.

To their credit, the Australians never gave up and put in a brave effort throughout the match against a more experienced and sometimes physical Germany.

Australia was forced to contest the last twelve minutes with ten noticeably tiring players after a crunching tackle by Wilder on defender Tracie McGovern saw her assisted from the field. Three substitutions had already been made and, with Louisa Bisby out suspended, no-one fit enough remained on the bench as her replacement.

The numerical disadvantage eventually took its toll and Germany's Tanja Vreden headed home their fourth goal in the last minute of ordinary time. A significant amount of injury time was played, during which Germany found the back of the net once again, but the goal was disallowed.

"The girls can hold their heads high after this tournament and, even though we didn't get the results, the experience gained has been far more important," said National Youth Coach Chris Tanzey.

The Australian side arrives back in Australia tomorrow (Wed) morning.

Australia U21: Kell, McGovern, McShea, Morris, Cavanagh (Bond 74), Revell [capt], Hepperlin, Small, Ruotolo, Thomas (Halfpenny 54), Channing (Carney 42).

AUSTRALIA UNLUCKY AGAINST CHAMPIONS NORWAY

NORWAY 3
(Ingrid Saetre 37m, Anita Rapp 68m, Kristin Lie 85m)
AUSTRALIA 1
(Danielle Small 8m)

Underdogs Australia deserved better than their 3-1 loss to reigning champions Norway on Saturday morning (Aust time) in their final group match of the U21 Nordic Cup at Fjolnis.

The young and inexperienced Australians, given no chance by any of the other teams, shocked Norway by taking the early lead.

Australia put in their best performance to date, combining in fantastic fashion to take the game to Norway for the duration of the clash.

Australia's concentration remained on playing a short-passing, technical game, in contrast to Norway's traditional long-ball style.

After just eight minutes, Australian captain Kim Revell played a short corner to Jessica Halfpenny. Receiving the ball back, Revell provided the perfect cross for Danielle Small to head home strongly.

The favourites equalised eight minutes before the break, a brief lapse in concentration from the Australians allowing Norway to play three crisp balls for Ingrid Saetre to convert the cross from the right.

Midway through the second half, Norway claimed the 2-1 lead, an innocent looking cross deflected into goal by Norwegian Anita Rapp.

Norway closed the door on any hopes of an Australian leveller with a third goal five minutes from the final whistle. From 20 metres on the right, Kristin Lie turned and smacked the ball past stranded keeper Joanne Butland.

Neither side had dominated the overall number of chances on goal but the referee's display did not help Australia's cause.

Second half substitute Michelle Carney was through on goal before being sandwiched by two defenders, but play was waved on.

Best for Australia were Kate McShea, Small, Tracie McGovern, Louisa Bisby, and Megan Bond.

"I'm really proud of today's performance — the intensity was there," said National Youth Coach Chris Tanzey.

"I just feel so sorry for the girls — the deserved at least a draw. Again there were some great individual performances.

"Australia was the better team," he added. "But the refereeing was appalling.

"A lot of things off the ball were not picked up."

Australia U21: Butland, McShea, McGovern, Bisby, Small, Leake (Cavanagh 46), Revell [capt], Hepperlin, Bond, Halfpenny (Carney 65), Channing (Thomas 70).

Australia will now play off for 7th place against Germany who also finished fourth in their group.

A second yellow card for the tournament to Australian defender Louisa Bisby rules her out for the match.

Norway and USA will contest the final, a rematch of last year's decider.

AUSTRALIA DOWNED BY HOSTS ICELAND

ICELAND 2
(Rakel Logadottir 57m, Heidi Sigurbergisdottir 76m)
AUSTRALIA 1
(Kim Revell 86m)

A competitive Australia lost 2-1 to host nation Iceland last Thursday morning (Aust time) in the second match of the U21 Nordic Cup at Arknes, leaving the visitors disappointed they had not done better.

Australia made a quality start in the balmy 20 degree warmth, knocking the ball around with confidence. The Aussies created some good opportunities on goal throughout the match including a Louisa Bisby freekick which hit the woodwork in the first ten minutes, but were unable to score until the dying minutes.

A good opportunity fell to Kim Revell with a cross in the 6th minute, but her effort flew wide. Striker Michelle Carney was then held by her opponent and Bisby's attempt from the resultant freekick from the right edge of the box struck the crossbar and went over.

Iceland did not record their first strike on goal until the 16th minute, skied well over the target.

But Australia's early attacking rhythm seemed to be lost once a hip injury to midfielder Danielle Small midway through the first half forced her off the field for eight minutes' treatment then substitution.

Below par fitness also saw the error count then increase as the strong Iceland closed down the Australians in possession.

Following a scoreless first half, Australia came close in the first minute after the restart. Revell initiated the attack, passing to Alicia Cavanagh who provided the cross, but Jessica Halfpenny's shot whistled just wide of the left post.

The home side then snatched the lead in the 57th minute, a missed tackle allowing the cross to come in to Rakel Logadottir who made no mistake from 12 metres in front.

In the 65th minute, an inviting Australian cross went through the keeper's legs amongst a crowded box, but still failed to result in a goal.

Iceland then doubled their lead eleven minutes later, another defensive error giving Heidi Sigurbergisdottir the successful shot on goal.

The home side continued to apply the pressure and in the 80th minute, substitute keeper Joanne Butland was called on to save at point blank range to keep the Aussies in the match.

Australia got on the scoreboard with four minutes remaining, Kim Revell capping a fine captain's performance with a fantastic strike from an acute angle wide on the right which flew in at the far post.

Other best Australian performances came from midfielder Kate McShea and strikers Michelle Carney and Jessica Halfpenny.

"Under the circumstances, being two years younger in age and limited preparation, the girls are doing everything asked of them," said National Youth Coach Chris Tanzey.

"We are physically not prepared for this level of football.

"Despite this we played some excellent football for long periods but were outmuscled in both penalty boxes. It is as good as we can expect and I was heartened by some excellent individual performances."

Australia U21: Kell (Butland 46), McGovern (Morris 60), Leake (Ruotolo 67), Bisby, Cavanagh, McShea, Small (Bond 34), Revell [capt], Hepperlin, Halfpenny (Thomas 67), Carney.

SWEDEN TOO EXPERIENCED FOR AUSTRALIA

SWEDEN 4
(Sara Larsson 1m, Sara Thunebro 36m, Jenny Monsen 48m, Christin Lilja 90m)
AUSTRALIA 1
(Natalie Thomas 53m)

Experience proved the difference as the young Australians lost 4-1 to Sweden in their opening match of the U21 Nordic Cup last Tuesday morning (Aust time) at Hlidarendi in Reykjavik, Iceland.

Australia's captain and most experienced player Kim Revell was ruled out on the morning of the match through illness, her absence a major blow to the game plan.

Lapses in concentration at key times in the match proved costly to the Australians, with three goals conceded a minute before or after the breaks.

Otherwise overall, Australia put in an encouraging performance.

Australia was caught out in the very first minute of play, Sara Larsson successful with her shot to give Sweden the early lead. Australia soon settled to combine well through the backs and midfield.

A defensive lapse by Australia in the 36th minute allowed the Swedes to cut the ball back inside for Sara Thunebro to drive past the keeper to double their lead.

A minute into the second half, Swede Helena Svard made a break down the right, and her subsequent shot ran along the crossbar and was allowed to fall into the path of Jenny Monsen who slotted the ball home for a three goal advantage.

Two minutes later, another scare for the Aussies as a high freekick from near halfway was headed at the edge of the box, skimming the top of the crossbar.

Australia responded seven minutes later when defender Tracie McGovern won the ball deep on the right and advanced forward up the wing, a Swedish tackle sending the ball out.

McGovern's throw-in was then cut inside by Alicia Cavanagh for striker Natalie Thomas to convert the chance for a 3-1 scoreline.

Iceland continued to push forward but Australia's backline held firm. The visitors then finally relented to the pressure, conceding a fourth goal in the very last minute to Christin Lilja.

"Our side is giving away 2-4 years in age, which is a lot in an age-based tournament like this, and the level of international experience of the Swedes is incomparable," said National Youth Coach Chris Tanzey.

"It certainly hurt us losing our most experienced player Kim Revell who could have offset some of our disadvantage. We conceded three goals in the 1st, 46th, and 90th minutes due to lack of experience and loss of concentration.

"In general, the players can be very proud of their performance, particularly in the second half. "We showed we have the ability to match it with any team here.

"All we need is the experience and that's what our participation here will help to provide. Give us another twelve months, and we would beat this team comfortably."

Australia U21: Butland, McGovern [capt], Leake, Bisby, Cavanagh (Morris 67), Small, Hepperlin, McShea, Bond, Thomas (Channing 77), Carney (Halfpenny 67).

VICTORIAN LEAGUES



CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE

DIVISION 1 - ROUND 21

Oakleigh 1 - Heidelberg United 2
Yarraville Glory 2 - Doncaster Rovers 0
Werribee City 1 - Westgate 1
Melbourne City 1 - Kingston City 0
Richmond 4 - Western Suburbs 1
North Geelong Warriors 1 - Springvale City 0
Lalor United 1 - Northcote City 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Heidelberg United	21	14	4	3	47	25	46
Oakleigh	21	13	4	4	43	22	43
Lalor United	21	11	6	4	42	27	39
Westgate	21	11	4	6	36	28	37
Yarraville Glory	21	8	6	7	36	32	30
Western Suburbs	21	8	4	9	33	33	28
Richmond	21	7	7	7	31	33	28
Doncaster Rovers	21	7	6	8	37	35	27
Nth Geelong Warriors	21	6	8	7	30	31	26
Springvale City	21	7	4	10	28	31	25
Melbourne City	21	7	2	12	31	42	23
Northcote City	21	6	3	12	42	49	21
Kingston City	21	5	4	12	22	46	19
Werribee City	21	3	6	12	21	45	15

ROUND 22 FIXTURES

Friday August 15

Melbourne City v Lalor United
Northcote City v North Geelong Warriors
Springvale City v Oakleigh
Western Suburbs v Yarraville Glory
Doncaster Rovers v Werribee City
Kingston City v Westgate
Heidelberg United v Richmond

DIVISION 2 - ROUND 21

Diamond Valley United 3 - Altona City 0
Cranbourne Comets 1 - Frankston Strikers 2
Essendon 1 - Old Scotch Waverley 1
Ringwood City 3 - Geelong 2
Knox City 4 - Croydon City Arrows 0
Thomastown/Regent 1 - Satellite City Rovers 0
Frankston Pines 3 - East Richmond 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essendon	21	14	7	0	58	15	49
Frankston Pines	20	13	5	2	54	22	44
Knox City	21	11	4	6	37	19	37
Geelong	21	9	5	7	36	41	32
Altona City	21	9	3	9	21	34	30
Old Scotch Waverley	20	7	8	5	21	24	29
Frankston Strikers	21	8	4	9	42	30	28
East Richmond	21	7	7	7	28	34	28
Cranbourne Comets	21	6	7	8	35	34	25
Ringwood City	21	6	5	10	27	46	23
Thomastown/Regent	21	6	4	11	32	41	22
Satellite City Rovers	21	5	5	11	19	37	20
Diamond Valley United	21	4	7	10	24	38	19
Croydon City Arrows	21	3	5	13	22	41	14

ROUND 22 FIXTURES

Saturday August 14

Essendon v Frankston Pines
East Richmond v Thomastown/Regent
Satellite City Rovers v Knox City
Croydon City Arrows v Ringwood City
Geelong v Cranbourne Comets
Frankston Strikers v Diamond Valley United
Old Scotch Waverley v Altona City

DIVISION 3 - ROUND 21

South Wantirna 2 - Williamstown 1
Keilor Park 0 - South Springvale 0
North Coburg United 5 - Pascoe Vale 1
Fitzroy City 2 - Moreland City 1
Broadmeadows City 1 - Stonnington City 1
Bell Park 3 - Laverton Park 1
Mooroolbark 1 - Banyule City 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stonnington City	21	13	6	2	53	26	45
South Wantirna	21	13	4	4	39	19	43
Fitzroy City	21	11	8	2	43	24	41
Nth Coburg United	21	12	3	6	42	30	39

South Springvale	21	9	11	1	37	15	38
Moreland City	21	9	5	7	38	31	32
Laverton Park	21	8	7	6	37	32	31
Mooroolbark	21	7	5	9	24	36	26
Pascoe Vale	21	6	4	11	30	44	22
Williamstown	21	5	6	10	31	41	21
Keilor Park	21	6	3	12	24	34	21
Bell Park	21	4	6	11	26	47	18
Broadmeadows City	20	3	6	11	28	44	15
Banyule City	20	0	6	14	16	45	6

ROUND 22 FIXTURES

Saturday August 14

North Coburg United v Mooroolbark
Banyule City v Bell Park
Laverton Park v Broadmeadows City
Stonnington City v Fitzroy City
Moreland City v Keilor Park
South Springvale v South Wantirna
Pascoe Vale v Williamstown

DIVISION 4 - ROUND 21

Nunawading City 0 - Sandringham City 2
Melton 0 - Seaford United 2
Chelsea 1 - Lalor 3
Corio 3 - Lyndale United 3
Keysborough 5 - Clifton Hill United 1
Geelong Rangers 2 - Sunbury United 3
Langwarrin 0 - Croxton Park 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Langwarrin	21	18	1	2	69	19	55
Sandringham City	21	14	3	4	64	34	45
Seaford United	21	13	3	5	45	32	42
Lyndale United	20	11	5	4	44	31	38
Croxton Park	21	8	10	3	44	29	34
Sunbury United	21	9	3	9	38	37	30
Melton	21	8	5	8	32	33	29
Lalor	20	7	4	9	33	42	25
Geelong Rangers	21	7	4	10	33	42	25
Corio	21	5	6	10	29	48	21
Keysborough	21	5	4	12	41	39	19
Chelsea	21	4	5	12	30	53	17
Clifton Hill United	21	5	2	14	29	59	17
Nunawading City	21	3	3	15	23	56	12

ROUND 22 FIXTURES

Saturday August 14

Chelsea v Langwarrin
Croxton Park v Geelong Rangers
Sunbury United v Keysborough
Clifton Hill United v Corio
Lyndale United v Melton
Seaford United v Nunawading City
Lalor v Sandringham City

eat well  live well

WOMEN'S LEAGUES

PREMIER DIVISION - ROUND 16

Essendon A v Keilor Park - no result received
Cranbourne A 2 - Manningham 0
Endeavour United v South Melbourne - no result received
Heidelberg United - bye
Westvale - bye

Table - Table - Cranbourne A 36, Manningham 27, Keilor Park 22, Westvale 17, South Melbourne 16, Essendon A 11, Heidelberg United 0, Endeavour Utd 0.

ROUND 17 FIXTURES

Sunday August 15

Westvale v Endeavour United
Heidelberg United v Cranbourne A
Manningham v Essendon A
Keilor Park - bye
South Melbourne - bye

DIVISION 1 - ROUND 16

Endeavour Hills 2 - Knox County 2
Cranbourne B 4 - Newborough/Yallourn 0
Ballarat Strikers v Seaford United - no result received
Yarraville Glory - bye
Waverley Taipans - bye
Table - Cranbourne B 37, Newborough/Yallourn 22, Yarraville Glory 20, Knox County 18, Seaford United 14, Endeavour Hills 13, Waverley Taipans 7, Ballarat Strikers 3.

ROUND 17 FIXTURES

Sunday August 15

Yarraville Glory v Ballarat Strikers
Seaford United v Cranbourne B

Newborough/Yallourn v Endeavour Hills
Knox County - bye
Waverley Taipans - bye

DIVISION 2 NORTH-WEST - ROUND 16

Essendon B v Fairfield Falcons A - no result received
Brunswick City 3 - Calder Strikers 1
Brimbank v Laverton Park - no result received
Ballarat City 3 - Eltham North 0
Thornbury United 1 - Mill Park 1

Table - Ballarat City 41, Brimbank 33, Laverton Park 31, Brunswick City 31, Eltham North 28, Calder Strikers 20, Fairfield Falcons A 17, Essendon B 12, Mill Park 8, Thornbury United 2.

ROUND 17 FIXTURES

Sunday August 15

Thornbury United v Fairfield Falcons A
Mill Park v Ballarat City
Eltham North v Brimbank
Laverton Park v Brunswick City
Calder Strikers v Essendon B

DIVISION 2 SOUTH-EAST - ROUND 16

Monash University 4 - Monbulk 1
Carringbush 3 - Springvale City 0
Bentleigh Greens 1 - Gippsland Falcons 0
South Wantirna - bye
Frankston Pines - bye

Table - Bentleigh Greens 39, Carringbush 31, Springvale City 23, Gippsland Falcons 21, Monash University 12, South Wantirna 8, Monbulk 7, Frankston Pines 3.

ROUND 17 FIXTURES

Sunday August 15

Frankston Pines v Monbulk
Gippsland Falcons v Carringbush
South Wantirna v Monash University
Bentleigh Greens - bye
Springvale City - bye

DIVISION 3 NORTH-WEST - ROUND 16

Maribyrnong United 0 - Melbourne Raiders 4
Deakin University v Melton - no result received
Pascoe Vale v North Reservoir - no result received
Fairfield Falcons B 6 - Diamond Valley United 1
La Trobe University - bye

Table - North Reservoir 39, Melton 31, Melbourne Raiders 30, Fairfield Falcons B 22, La Trobe University 17, Pascoe Vale 15, Deakin University 13, Diamond Valley United 6, Maribyrnong United 5.

ROUND 17 FIXTURES

Sunday August 15

Diamond Valley United v Melbourne Raiders
Fairfield Falcons B v Pascoe Vale
La Trobe University v Deakin University
Melton v Maribyrnong United
North Reservoir - bye

DIVISION 3 SOUTH-EAST - ROUND 16

Crystal United v Melbourne University - no result received
East Bentleigh 2 - Sandringham City 1
Box Hill Inter 1 - Hampton Park 1
Monash Gryphon - bye

Table - Hampton Park 25, Box Hill Inter 24, Melbourne University 14, Monash Gryphon 12, East Bentleigh 7, Sandringham City 6, Crystal United 4.

ROUND 17 FIXTURES

Sunday August 15

Monash Gryphon v Box Hill Inter
Hampton Park v East Bentleigh
Sandringham City v Crystal United
Melbourne University - bye

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE

DIVISION 1 - ROUND 16

North Sunshine Eagles 2 - Monbulk 2
Templestowe Eagles 2 - Springvale Condors 2
Dandenong 0 - Mitcham United 0
Brunswick City 4 - Sydenham Park 1
Endeavour United 2 - South Caulfield 1
Riversdale 0 - Morwell Pegasus 2

Table - Endeavour United 49, Morwell Pegasus 44, Brunswick City 41, Sydenham Park 29, Riversdale 28, Mitcham United 22, Templestowe Eagles 21, North Sunshine Eagles 17, Monbulk 15, Dandenong 14, South Caulfield 10, Springvale Condors 7

ROUND 16 FIXTURES

Saturday August 14

Morwell Pegasus v Endeavour United
Monbulk v Riversdale
South Caulfield v Brunswick City
Sydenham Park v Dandenong
Mitcham United v Templestowe Eagles
Springvale Condors v North Sunshine Eagles

DIVISION 2 NORTH-WEST - ROUND 16

Meadow Park 0 - South Yarra 3

Elwood City 6 - Keon Park 0
Ballarat 1 - University of Melbourne 0
Somerton City 4 - Mill Park 1
Hoppers Crossing 6 - Glenroy 0

Melbourne University 1 - Broadmeadows United 1
Table - Hoppers Crossing 43, Glenroy 38, Elwood City 38, Somerton City 36, Ballarat 29, University of Melbourne 26, Broadmeadows United 21, Melbourne University 20, Mill Park 19, South Yarra 12, Keon Park 10, Meadow Park 7.

ROUND 16 FIXTURES

Saturday August 14

Broadmeadows United v Hoppers Crossing
South Yarra v Melbourne University
Glenroy v Somerton City
Mill Park v Ballarat
University of Melbourne v Elwood City
Keon Park v Meadow Park

DIVISION 3 SOUTH-EAST - ROUND 16

Newborough/Yallourn 2 - Heatherton United 1
Brandon Park 1 - Braeside United 0
Clayton 7 - Dingley City 0

Dandenong Inter 2 - Waverley Wanderers 5
Noble Park v Monash University - no result received
Ashburton 2 - Doveton 1
Table - Waverley Wanderers 41, Clayton 41, Doveton 38, Heatherton United 27, Newborough/Yallourn 26, Dingley City 26, Brandon Park 23, Ashburton 22, Braeside United 18, Dandenong Inter 15, Monash University 15, Noble Park 11.

ROUND 16 FIXTURES

Saturday August 14

Doveton v Noble Park
Heatherton United v Ashburton
Monash University v Dandenong Inter
Waverley Wanderers v Clayton
Dingley City v Brandon Park
Braeside United v Newborough/Yallourn

DIVISION 3 NORTH-WEST - ROUND 16

Brimbank City 4 - La Trobe University 0
Northern United 1 - Keilor United 1
Flemington Falcons 1 - North Glenroy 2
Whittlesea United 4 - Darebin United 2
West Preston 1 - Brimbank 7
North Reservoir 1 - Watsonia Heights 1

Table - Whittlesea United 44, North Glenroy 38, Darebin United 31, Brimbank 31, Keilor United 29, Brimbank City 27, Flemington Falcons 21, North Reservoir 20, La Trobe University 20, Northern United 16, Watsonia Heights 15, West Preston 9.

ROUND 16 FIXTURES

Sunday August 15

Watsonia Heights v West Preston
La Trobe University v North Reservoir
Brimbank v Whittlesea United
Darebin United v Flemington Falcons
North Glenroy v Northern United
Keilor United v Brimbank City

DIVISION 3 SOUTH-EAST - ROUND 16

Endeavour Hills 1 - Noble Park United 4
Ivanhoe United 4 - Thornbury United 1
Beaumaris 4 - Old Camberwell Grammar 1
Newport United 3 - Parkmore 0
Rowville Eagles 3 - North Caulfield 1
Moreland United 0 - Collingwood City 2

Table - Noble Park United 36, North Caulfield 35, Moreland United 32, Endeavour Hills 31, Collingwood City 29, Ivanhoe United 27, Rowville Eagles 26, Thornbury United 23, Old Camberwell Grammar 19, Beaumaris 18, Newport United 11, Parkmore 9.

ROUND 16 FIXTURES

Sunday August 15

Collingwood City v Rowville Eagles
Noble Park United v Moreland United
North Caulfield v Newport United
Parkmore v Beaumaris
Old Camberwell Grammar v Ivanhoe United
Thornbury United v Endeavour Hills

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PREMIER LEAGUE



SOUTH GO DOWN

PORT MELBOURNE 3
SOUTH DANDENONG 0

By Chris Elysee

Port Melbourne made sure that the title race will go down to the wire, as they produced a workmanlike performance to dispatch a South Dandenong side that never stopped fighting.

With Green Gully only managing a draw at Altona Magic, the stakes are high in the closing round of the Premier League, with nothing less than a win needed by Gully to ensure that the championship does not go to Port Melbourne.

No such luck for South Dandenong though, this defeat confirms their relegation after two seasons in the league.

From the outset, the signs were positive for the Sharks. In the 5th minute, a penetrating run through the heart of South's defence by Nick Tsaltas produced a shot on goal that called Chris Roche into action early on. Port dictated the tempo of the game and were unlucky not to score on several occasions, with Roche pulling off some spectacular saves.

However, in the 24th minute the game turned in Port's favour. A short corner by Jimmy Latinopoulos produced a shot that deflected off a South defender and nestled into the top right hand corner of the goal.

Port didn't have it all their own way, with South making several good goal scoring opportunities. The best of these came in the 34th minute, with a John Paul Knezevic error letting Festim Zekirja run at the Sharks defence. His diagonal ball over the Port defence released Viktor Memeti, who failed to hit the target from 6 yards with only the 'keeper to beat.

The second half saw South take the game to the Sharks, with the Port defence withholding the constant barrage. This was until Roddy Vargas decided to take over. His run from deep inside his own half took him all the way down the left hand flank, releasing Peter Kakos with a through ball.

Kakos' run to the goal line and his cut back found Vargas again in space, with his finish giving the Sharks the ascendancy.

Although South continued to work hard after this, Port stepped up another gear, with the Southerners saviour Roche keeping them in it with some crucial saves.

However, Port made the result a formality when Kakos converted a penalty in the 87th minute, making it 3-0.

With only next week remaining, the championship race is far from over, making for an entertaining close to the 1999 season.

Sharks: Cooper, Vargas, Knezevic, Latinopoulos, Fak, Tzirtis (Tzaferis), Heath, Pappas, Tsaltas (Caimakamis), Dimas, Kakos.

South: Roche, Wright, Gupinar (Mucij), Rasimi, Moodie, Kirichian (Tarevski - sent off), Van Egmond, Ibrahim (Mezensof), Villani, Zekirja, Memeti.

Referee: Carlo Graser

Votes: 3- Vargas (PM), 2- Latinopoulos (PM), 1- Roche (SD)

ST ALBANS 3
MELBOURNE RAIDERS 1

By Ivan Perkovic

Both of these sides had already assured their Premier League status, but the Saints and the Raiders played as though their lives were at stake. In a game filled with passion, St Albans took all three points downing the Raiders 3-1.

It was a match that could have gone either way as goal scoring opportunities created outnumbered free kicks given.

Hrvoje Karl and Kon Sianidis spearheaded the Saints every attack, while Lirim Salievski and Mohammed El Kersh did the same for the Raiders.

It was the 27th minute that Karl tricked two players on the touch-line, cut in and squared the ball for Greg Saric. His shot was expertly saved by the Raiders custodian, Mauro Raponi. Raponi then saved another from Damien Vojtek.

After the ball was cleared George Jolevski fouled Slavko Rados on the side-line and from the ensuing free kick, Sianidis rose above the pack to score.

Early in the second half, a foul on Salievski gave

the Raiders a free kick just outside the penalty area. Jolevski hit a low, hard shot that went in off the post.

In the 53rd minute, Ivan Razov was fouled 20 yards from goal. Enter Martin Raspudic, who has been practising these free kicks all season, who curled a wonderful shot into the top left hand corner.

The Raiders pushed forward in search of a result and St Albans looked to put the game beyond doubt.

It was the 76th minute when man of the match Sianidis ran back to dispossess Jolevski, then release Krunoslav Razov who in turn found Ilija Dragicevic. Dragicevic passed to Karl to score his 21st goal of this campaign.

Towards the end, the Raiders went close several times, but Marijan Vunderl or the frame of the goal denied them a second.

Saints: Vunderl, I.Rados, J.Cuze, Raspudic, Karl, K.Razov, S.Rados, Sianidis, Vojtek (Dragicevic), Saric (Mikulic), Movric (I.Razov).

Raiders: Raponi, Jolevski, Angelovski (Cuteri), Anastasiou, Lingurovski, Boschini, Gasparini, El Kersh (Falcone), Kitanovski, Sahevski, Nedanovski.

Referee: Dominic Barba

Votes: 3- Sianidis (StA), 2- Raspudic (StA), 1- Raponi (MR)

ALTONA MAGIC 3
GREEN GULLY 3

By Dwyght Tuffnell

The championship race is wide open again after Altona Magic held Green Gully to a thrilling 3-3 draw on Sunday.

The Cavaliers now have to win next weeks encounter with an in-form St Albans Saints to take the title.

The Magic, on the other hand, are now safe from relegation.

Altona took the game up to Gully from the first whistle and shocked the league leaders with a goal in the 7th minute when John Sapazovski poked Zoran Petrevski's cross past Robert Brian.

Tony Neceski had a goal ruled out for offside before George Svigos brought the Cavaliers back onto level terms when he headed in a loose ball following a Nick Papadopoulos cross.

It took the Magic just two minutes to take the lead again however, Petrevski managing to get a Sapazovski cross over the line after some fairly ordinary Gully defending.

Five minutes later a now rampant Altona further extended their lead.

Zoran Markovski gave the ball away to Toni Trifunov who played a one-two with Sapazovski before coolly beating Brian with a left foot shot into the corner.

Ten minutes before half-time, the Cavaliers pulled a goal back when Steve Mangos headed in Papadopoulos' cross.

Green Gully threw everything at Altona in the second half but couldn't find a way past the commanding Darren McGrath in the Magic goal.

McGrath was particularly good at corners where the tall timber of Green Gully were constantly thwarted by his punching or catching.

He pulled off a brilliant save in the 77th minute to deny Papadopoulos from close range before recovering to swoop on the loose ball before Neceski could get to it.

There was nothing that McGrath could about Gully's equaliser however.

The umpteenth Gully corner of the half was fisted to the edge of the box where Svigos launched a spectacular volley into the corner of the net.

Svigos nearly made it a hat-trick with five minutes to go, only a diving block by Magic defender Simon Micevski prevented a loss for his side.

Magic: McGrath, Tasevski, Risteovski, Micevski, T.Markovski, Vastilevski, Velkovski, Petrevski, Trifunov, Sapazovski, Madarovski.

Cavaliers: Brian, Sevin (Suric), Azzopardi (Vassallo), Douglas, Mangos, Svigos, Georgiadis, Papadopoulos, Markovski, Neceski, Donev (Genovesi).

Referee: Peter Ralveski

Votes: 3- Svigos (GG), 2- McGrath (AM), 1- Sapazovski (AM)

FAWKNER THUMP GEORGIES

SUNSHINE 1 FAWKNER 6

By George Koukeris

Fawkner Blues continued relegated Sunshine Georgies miserable season, thumping them 6-1 at Chaplin Reserve on Sunday.

In a complete unexpected turnaround, the Blues found the perfect formation to tear the Georgies defence to shreds after going behind early.

Six minutes into the game, Sunshine's Alfonso Opazo lead the home team quickly onto the scoreboard after he seized on an opportunity when Maurice Gonzales failed to hold possession, and worked the space to find the target.

Sunshine gained full control for the first twenty minutes with Marc Elvin, Mark Recchia and Michael Schiafone causing a nightmare for the Blues defence.

In the 25th minute the pendulum swung the Blues' way as they bagged the first of six.

Martin Collins was on the end of a perfect Josip Biskic corner and six minutes later, Santo Emmanuele added his name to the scoresheet with a brilliant low shot at goal that 'keeper Steve Wardle had little chance to stop.

In the second stanza, the Blues continued from where they left off with a third goal in the 58th minute from Peter Psarros who fired home from 15 metres.

Just two minutes had passed and the Blues moved to a 4-1 lead as substitute Marco Di Sauro weaved his way from midfield to finish off in great style and another in the 85th through Collins.

As if that wasn't enough, Emmanuele recorded his second for the day in the 88th minute when he latched on to defensive error and fired home.

Georgies: Wardle, Monitto (Olguin), Rozanitis, Kanesoulis, Debono (Mercuri), Tambouras, Elvin, Recchia, Opazo, Stojanovski, Schiafone (Corseovski).

Blues: Gonzales, Tramontana, Gmnaud, Vazzochi (Di Sauro), Collins, Bordignon, Biskic (Murphy), Emmanuele, Duzel, Psarros (Alexopoulos).

Referee: Cam Naumcevski

Votes: 3- Bordignon (FB), 2- Biskic (FB), 1- Collins (FB)

SPRINGVALE W.E. 1
BENTLEIGH 0

By Kevin Christopher

Springvale White Eagles gave themselves every hope of avoiding relegation with a crucial 1-0 home win over Bentleigh Greens.

Despite persistent rain during the night and most of the morning, the ground was in surprisingly good condition, allowing both sides to pass with confidence although good chances were scarce in the first half.

The best of those fell to Springvale's Eric Styczen just before the break, when he was played into a one-on-one by a great pass from Sasa Nikolic. Styczen managed to successfully round the 'keeper but took too long with his shot, allowing Stelios Drakos to clear off the line.

Having safely negotiated their way to half-time, the home side showed more initiative after the break and took the lead twenty minutes from time through a superb goal from Jim Gacovski.

Receiving the ball from Mariano Calomino, he managed to lob the ball over his marker Theo Constantinou and work his way to the edge of the penalty area where he drilled the ball inside the right hand post.

Bentleigh had a goal disallowed just two minutes later when Juan Nilo was flagged offside, and David Grella hit the post with a clever header eight minutes from time.

The match ended on a sour note when a clumsy challenge by Tom Karapatsos on Gacovski sparked a minor melee, which saw Zlatko Mihajlovic (already serving a suspension) sent from the bench after he was 3rd man in' with a clash with Karapatsos.

White Eagles: Kalamaris, Mlinar, Oter, Mandic, Gacovski (sent off), Styczen, Rikanovic, Poutakidis, Nikolic, Armour, Cohadzic (Calomino).

Greens: Tsianakas, Karapatsos (sent off), Michael, McDonagh (Kourkoutzelos), Constantinou, Drakos, Kotsovolos (Grella), Mladenovic, Papettas (Lenetis), Nilo.

Votes: 3- Styczen (SWE), 2- Mladenovic (BG), 1- Kotsovolos

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ROUND 24

South Dandenong 1 (Memeti) - St Albans Saints 5 (Sianidis, Saric, Karl 2, Vojtek)
Green Gully Cavaliers 2 (Neceski 2) - Sunshine Georgies 1 (Magnacca)
Melbourne Raiders 0 - Altona Magic 0

ROUND 25 FIXTURES

Port Melbourne Sharks 3 (Latinopoulos, Vargas, Kakos) - South Dandenong 0
St Albans Saints 3 (Raspudic, Karl, Sianidis) - Melbourne Raiders 1 (Jolevski)
Altona Magic 3 (Sapazovski, Petrevski, Trifunov) - Green Gully Cavaliers 3 (Svigos 2, Mangos)
Sunshine Georgies 1 (Opazo) - Fawkner Blues 6 (Collins 2, Emmanuele 2, Psarros, Di Sauro)
Springvale White Eagles 1 (Gacovski) - Bentleigh Greens 0
Westvale v Altona East and Bulleen v Preston played Monday night

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Green Gully Cavaliers	25	15	8	2	53	24	53
Port Melbourne Sharks	25	16	4	5	57	28	52
Preston Lions	24	14	2	8	45	34	44
Fawkner Blues	25	13	4	8	46	32	43
Bentleigh Greens	25	12	6	7	61	31	42
St Albans Saints	25	11	3	11	43	36	36
Bulleen Inter Kings	24	9	7	8	35	31	34
Melbourne Raiders	25	9	6	10	34	44	33
Altona Magic	25	8	7	10	35	45	31
Springvale White Eagles	25	8	5	12	36	39	29
Altona East Phoenix	24	7	6	11	26	36	27
South Dandenong	25	6	6	13	41	60	24
Westvale	24	4	7	13	30	64	19
Sunshine Georgies	25	4	3	18	26	64	15

ROUND 26 FIXTURES - FINAL ROUND

Sunday August 15

Bulleen Inter Kings v Port Melbourne Sharks - kick off 3pm at Veneto Club
Preston Lions v Westvale - kick off 3pm at Goodyear Stadium
Altona East Phoenix v Springvale White Eagles - kick off 3pm at Paisley Park
Bentleigh Greens v Sunshine Georgies - kick off 3pm at Kingston Heath Reserve
Fawkner Blues v Altona Magic - kick off 3pm at Smith Reserve
Green Gully Cavaliers v St Albans Saints - kick off 3pm at Green Gully Reserve
South Dandenong v Melbourne Raiders - kick off 3pm at George Andrews Reserve



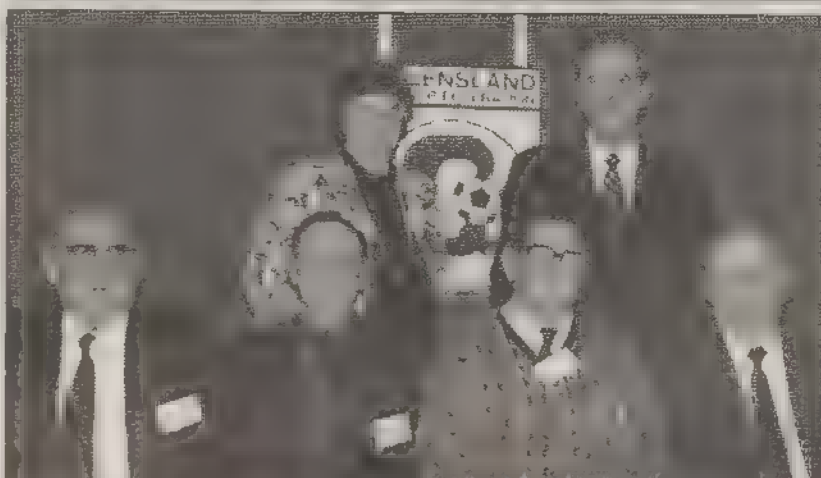


Qld Soccer Federation

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HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONS



Front row from left to right... Gordon 'Bunny' Nunn, Graham McMillan, Cliff Sander, Des Miles. Back Row... Pam Gilbert, Wallace Dann, President Qld Soccer Federation.

Earlier this year Soccer Australia honoured 84 people as being the most influential in developing the code in the 120 years of the game's history in this country.

An inaugural Soccer Australia Hall of Fame was formed together with a special Honours Committee whose task was to seek nominations of persons from all facets of the code who could be honoured for induction into this Hall of Fame.

From the time of its forming to the final announcement of the first inductees, it took just over two years with people from all over Australia being recognised by Soccer Australia at a special ceremony last February in Sydney.

Soccer Australia then asked the various State

Federations if they would do the honour of making formal presentations to members who were not present in Sydney.

Last Monday the Queensland Soccer Federation held its presentation evening at soccer headquarters in Brisbane, to honour three Queenslanders who received the Award of Distinction and two who were placed on the Roll of Gordon 'Bunny' Nunn, a former Australian International during the late 1940's who received an Award of Distinction.

He played 16 times for Australia including 11 full internationals during the time when it was not easy task to represent you country.

Nunn was one of those rare breeds in that he was an exceedingly hard working striker scoring 18 goals for his country. He played against England, New Zealand and also toured to South Africa in 1950.

Cliff Sander represented Ipswich, Queensland and Australia winning selection in the national team a total of 18 times, eight of which were full internationals.

He made his international debut against New Zealand in 1954 and played against South Africa, Japan and India, gaining selection in the Australian Team to participate at the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games, which will make next year's football tournament in the 2000 Olympic's being played in Brisbane, an important memory. Sander received the Award of Distinction.

Graham McMillan who also received the Award of Distinction, had a varied soccer career both on and off the field in Queensland. He went on to play and coach with a number of Brisbane clubs and was also involved in the formation of the state body, now known as the Queensland Soccer Federation.

McMillan first came to prominence in 1956 when, at 19 years of age, he scored eight goals in a probable v possible state team trial which led to his inclusion in the 1956 Olympic Games team. He had the marvelous honour of scoring Australia's first ever Olympic goal in their 2-1 win over Japan.

He played for 12 consecutive years from 1956 to 1968 for Queensland, he captained the state team and eventually retired in 1971 after having played 23 times for the State and 12 times for his country.

The awards that Soccer Australia initiated for the Hall of Fame, is also to recognise people's achievements both on and off the field. Pam Gilbert was recognised for her administrative contribution.

Gilbert's first involvement was in the early 60's when she became the junior registrar of her club in 1968. This led to her taking on the position of assistant secretary to the BJSA (Brisbane Junior Soccer Association).

In 1975 a new junior State body was formed called the Queensland Junior Soccer Council (QJSC) which elected her as their first treasurer.

Gilbert was also involved in a number of administrative capacities in the two World Youth Championships held here in Brisbane in 1981 and 1993. Pam now works two days a week as Administration Officer for the Council in their own office at Sports House.

The loss by Taringa, who had defender Jamie Lowndes sent off midway through the second half, has put a serious dent in their slim premiership aspirations.

Leaders Rochdale extended their lead over Taringa after demolishing Brisbane City 4-nil while second placed Gold Coast loom as Rochdale's biggest premiership threat after they thrashed Bundaberg 5-nil.

Rochdale's win maintained their slim two point lead at the top of the table over Gold Coast while Taringa stay third, seven points adrift of Rochdale but with an all important crunch game in hand against Ipswich Knights.

Ipswich's loss enabled Brisbane Lions to leapfrog them into fourth place, two points ahead of the Knights who have a must-win game in hand.

Any thoughts Rochdale had the premiership jitters after their shock defeat last round by Ipswich Knights, were snuffed out by a hatrick from striker Matt Olley.

Olley gave Rochdale a 1-nil lead at half time when he toe poked a cross home with keeper Peter Gaffney badly out of position midway through the first half.

Brisbane City, however, had been more than competitive and possibly should have been ahead on the scoreboard but suffered the consequences when three good chances from strikers Royce Brownlie, Chris Slater and midfielder Alan Cameron went astray.

Rochdale, who were missing skilful midfielder Brad Ditton, who was sent off in their 5-nil Queensland Cup loss to Brisbane Lions midweek, scored their third in the 86th minute from a Paul Grugan header.

City missed several other second half chances with Slater missing a header and Brownlie over running an attempt before Rochdale lost keeper Graham Ross, who was taken off with an injury in the 75th minute.

The result looked like being 2-nil with minutes to go before Olley snared two quick goals within a minute just before the final whistle.

Olley's second came when he followed up a shot in the 89th minute before he grabbed his hatrick a minute late pouncing on a fumble from City keeper Gaffney.

Olley's hatrick has opened up the race for the league's leading scorer. Olley now shares the lead with the Gold Coast's Peter Dwyer on 15 goals with Wynnum's Scott Rocker next with 13 goals.

Dwyer became joint leader after scoring from the penalty spot while midfielder Peter Grierson snatched a hatrick and Shane Smeltz the other in the Gold Coast's 5-nil win over Bundaberg.

In the battle for the wooden spoon Mt Gravatt moved off the bottom of the table at the expense of Toowoomba with a 2-1 win at Toowoomba.

ROUND 25

15-08	Taringa Rovers	v	Mt Gravatt	2.45pm
15-08	B'berg Waves	v	Ipswich Knights	2.45pm
15-08	Wynnum	v	Brisbane City	2.45pm
15-08	Rochdale	v	Toowoomba UTD	4.00pm
15-08	Brisbane Lions	v	Gold Coast	4.00pm

QUEENSLAND RESULTS & TABLES

XXXX LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	P	A	D	Pts
Rochdale Rov	24	15	2	7	57	35	22	47
Gold Coast	24	12	9	3	49	31	18	45
Taringa Rovers	23	12	4	7	40	24	16	40
Brisbane Lions	24	12	4	8	51	37	14	40
IPSW Knights	23	11	5	7	36	28	8	38
Brisbane City	23	11	3	9	39	33	6	36
Bunderberg Waves	24	7	5	12	35	43	-8	26
Wynnum	24	6	3	15	35	56	-21	21
Mt Gravatt	24	5	5	14	33	62	-29	20
Toowoomba Utd	23	4	6	15	21	47	-26	18

ROUND 24 SCORES

Toowoomba Utd	.....1	Mt Gravatt	.....2
Brisbane City	.....0	Rochdale	.....4
IPSW Knights	.....1	Wynnum	.....3
Gold Coast	.....5	B'berg Waves	.....0
Brisbane Lions	.....3	Taringa Rovers	.....0

DIVISION ONE NORTH

	P	W	D	L	P	A	D	Pts
North Star	21	13	4	4	53	26	27	43
Albany Creek	20	11	6	3	43	27	16	39
Eastern Subs	20	10	7	3	41	25	16	37
Pine Rivers Utd	21	11	4	6	41	25	16	37
Uni of Qld	22	10	3	9	39	39	0	33
Newmarket	21	8	6	7	35	33	2	30
The Gap	20	5	3	12	35	54	-19	18
Grange Thistle	21	3	5	13	19	51	-32	14
Mitchelton	20	1	4	15	16	42	-26	7

ROUND 24 SCORES

Uni of QLD	.....1	Grange Thistle	.....0
The Gap	.....4	Pine Rivers Utd	.....4
North Star	.....2	Albany Creek	.....2
Newmarket	.....0	Eastern Suburbs	.....0
Mltchekton - Bye			

DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	P	A	D	Pts
Capalaba	22	15	1	6	48	24	24	46
Rocklea Utd	21	14	3	4	60	29	31	45
Souths Utd	21	14	3	4	54	23	31	45
Slacks Creek	22	9	5	8	52	47	5	32
Inala City	20	8	2	10	32	48	-16	26
Beenleigh	21	7	4	10	42	48	-6	25
Redlands Utd	21	6	3	12	27	45	-18	21
Olympic Utd	21	7	0	14	34	53	-19	21
Acacia Ridge	21	3	3	15	22	54	-32	12

ROUND 24 SCORES

Rocklea	.....1	Slacks Creek	.....0
Capabia1	Inala City3
Souths Utd2	Redlands Utd0
Beenleigh2	Olympic Utd3
Acacia Ridge - Bye			



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By Graham Cooke

DON'T RULE ME OUT, SAYS CACHIA

Gungahlin Juventus' coach for the club's remaining league games, Frank Cachia, has made it clear he does not want to be ruled out of the job for next season, at the same time paying tribute to his predecessor, Billy Willox.

Willox resigned after his team was beaten 4-0 by Queanbeyan City, the ACT Premiership's bottom club, on August 1. It was City's first points of the season and the sixth consecutive loss for Juventus.

Cachia has been coaching at Juventus for four years, first with the youth team and latterly with the Under 23s. Local media reports have described him as a caretaker, and more or less suggested that former Monaro team boss Ian Heywood will take over in 2000.

However Cachia said he might not necessarily step aside. "I have additional commitments as coach of the ACT Under 13s, so I will have to think about it," he said.

"But I have a reasonably good record at Juventus with the lower grade sides, and a fair number of the current first team have played under me on their way to the top."

"I have played with the club's senior player, Tony Rinaudo, and we are good mates."

"All this could add up to a decision that I have served my apprenticeship and am ready for a shot at coaching in first grade - but the important thing is to get through the rest of this season."

"It's going to be interesting and exciting. For instance, my first match in charge is against the Burns Club, which is coached by Steve Bryant - I can remember acting as a ball-boy when Steve was playing at his peak."

Cachia said Willox should not be judged harshly. "On the face of it the result against Queanbeyan was shocking, but on that day

there were six players from either the firsts or the under 23s away with the ACT schoolboys, and another four suspended," he said.

"In addition, I feel that some of the more established members of the squad did not give as much as they should."

"Billy gave 100 per cent to Juventus, and I believe he became disillusioned when he saw the effort was not being returned."

Soccer Canberra will be aiming at a crowd of at least 3000 at Bruce Stadium on Saturday for the Junior World Championship qualifying tie between the Joys and Bahrain, chief executive Robert Bennett says.

"I believe we will all get a pleasant surprise when this game is played," he said.

"I know people are saying it's only a junior international, but it is a world championship game with something on the end of it."

"Canberra people will appreciate that more than they would a friendly at a higher level."

"And anyone who thinks this will be a formality should note that to reach this stage Bahrain has had to get past South Korea and Japan who are regular finalists in the senior World Cup."

Bennett said he was confident the match will be the first of several top games at Bruce in the lead-up to the 2000 Olympic Games.

"We want to see more matches - the Olyroos of course and the Matildas - there's no reason why not now that the refurbishment of the stadium is complete. There are few better venues in Australia."

The second leg of the tie will be played in Bahrain on August 27.

The winner will go to the championship finals in New Zealand later this year.



Zoran Glavinic

Canberra Deakin's veteran defender, Zoran Glavinic, is being groomed to coach the club next season, the current team boss, Bernie Lustica, says.

Lustica himself took over earlier in the season after the departure of Ian Shaw. At the time, Glavinic was turning out for Capital City Suns.

"I made it clear to the committee that this was my plan - I have had this job before, and I do not see myself in it for very long this time," Lustica said. "I am also club secretary and my aim is to become more involved in administration."

"Zoran liked the idea and agreed to return to Deakin where, after all, he has played most of his football."

"It's not generally known, but he is working as my co-coach at the moment, and if all goes well he'll be taking over in his own right next season."

Meanwhile, both men will be redoubling their efforts to steer Deakin into a play-off position in 1999.

Students at the Chang Sha School in China's Hunan Province could not

GLAVINIC TO COACH DEAKIN

take part in last month's ACT Kanga Cup junior tournament as they were in the middle of examinations.

Instead they got a tough examination in the rigours of international competition during a tour of Canberra organised as a consolation.

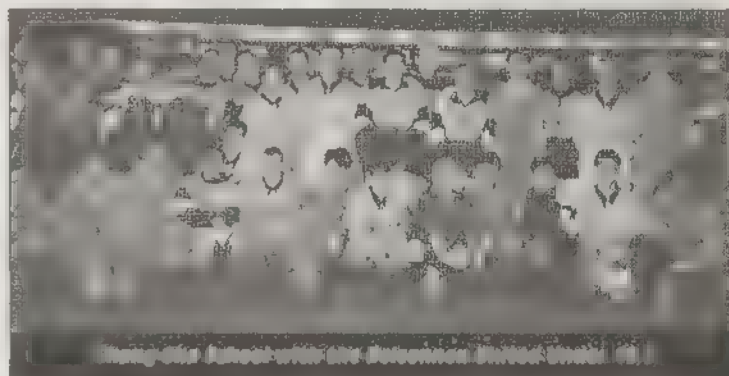
The school's seniors, comprising players aged from 15 to 18, soon found themselves in difficulties playing against match hardened ACT teams in the depths of a Canberra winter.

The leader of the party, and a representative of the State Sport General Administration of China, Liu Su Zhen, said the Kanga Cup is now well known in her country.

"We have regular contact with Soccer Canberra and it is our intention to field teams here every year," she said.

"It is just unfortunate that the dates clashed with examinations for the school on this occasion."

She agreed the team's results were not



They lost 10-1 to the ACT Under 15 representative side, 6-0 to the Under 16s, 7-2 and 4-1 to the youth teams of Belconnen United and Belwest, and 6-3 to Kambah High School.

good "but it is our aim to give students of all levels and abilities the chance to experience international contacts and friendship through football".

Capital City Suns twice came from behind to grab a 2-2 draw with Weston Creek Royals on Sunday, and hung on to top place in the ACT Premiership.

The two points for a score draw also kept Royals in fourth spot, and prompted Suns' coach Ian Shaw to suggest his team's opponents on the day "are now in the box seat for the minor premiership."

"When you look at their opposition in the remaining three games, they should win the lot, while everyone else is playing each other," he said.

His opposite number, Jimmy Bland, disagreed. "We may have what looks like an easier run-in than the others," he said. "But at this stage of the season no game is a walk-over."

The result also prompted criticism of the score draw system from the coach of the league's most improved club, Canberra Olympic's Bar Giampano.

"This two points for a score draw is a joke," he said. "We've won two more games than Weston Creek, yet we're still a point behind. Under this system a team could go through the season without a win and probably still make the top four."

There is no doubt that Royals, with five score draws in 15 games, have benefited from the extra points, but it would be hard to deny their top-four credentials on the basis of the performance against the classy Suns.

They were the better side early on, and deserved a ninth-minute lead when, from a Martin Lazzari corner, Adrian Paragalli headed on for Steve Lazzari to force the ball over the line at close range.

However, the Suns came back well, and their 36th-minute equaliser was the result of some sustained pressure. Tony Lemeznia back heeled a cross from the left, and the ball fell to Pat Phommaseisy, who found the bottom left hand corner of the net.

The Creek could not have made a better start to the second half, a powerful volley from Justin Webb beating Anthony Giannasca in goal, but once again the Suns had a reply.

Lemeznia broke clear - there was a suspicion of offside - but there was no doubt about the foul by Paragalli which brought him down in the penalty area. Lemeznia took his own spot kick, ensuring he stays ahead of Lazzari in the race to be the Premiership's leading scorer.

What might have been a fine finish was spoilt by the weather.

Continuous rain since midday began to have its effect on the pitch as water pooled on the surface and errors multiplied. In this event a draw was the fairest result.

Olympic added Belconnen United to their impressive collection of scalps in the second half of the season, beating the reigning champions 2-0.

Goals from Pino Semmaro and Robbie Grande secured the points, but Olympic will be hard-hit next week with up to four players missing owing to the resumption of Canberra Cosmos training and the demands of an overseas tour.

Monaro moved to second place after a less-than-overwhelming 3-2 win over the University of Canberra. Goals from Joe Campagna, Jimmy Baxter and Michael Mustano had given them a 3-0 lead before, in the words of coach Andrew Monterosso, "things went off the boil" and the University were allowed back into the game.

"Our finishing was appalling," Monterosso said.

There were no such scares for Canberra Deakin which brushed aside Queanbeyan City 3-0 with goals from Anthony Barac, Vince Bodo and Joe Skrtic, and in the remaining game of the day the Burns Club went on what was, for them, a goal feast, by handing Gungahlin Juventus their seventh consecutive loss, 4-3.

Burns coach Steve Bryant told his team to "bury Juventus while they are down", but that advice seemed somewhat hollow as his opponents ran up a 2-0 lead within seven minutes.

However, Burns hit back to lead 3-2 before Juventus made it 3-3 at half time, and in a rain-swept second half converted midfielder Danny Park secured the winner, and his hat-trick - all the more remarkable as Burns have managed just 10 goals in their previous 14 games.

ACT PREMIER LEAGUE

Division 1									
Queanbeyan City	0	Canberra Deakin	3						
Burns Club	4	Gungahlin Juventus	3						
Weston Creek Royals	2	Capital City Suns	2						
Canberra Olympic	2	Belconnen United	0						
University of Canberra	2	Monaro	3						
P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Capital City Suns	15	10	2	0	3	46	20	34	
Monaro	15	9	3	0	3	45	21	33	
Belconnen United	15	9	2	0	4	41	16	31	

Weston Creek Royals	15	7	5	0	3	33	21	31	
Canberra Olympic	15	9	1	1	4	32	15	30	
Canberra Deakin	15	9	1	1	4	32	18	30	
Gungahlin Juventus	15	6	1	0	8	25	31	20	
University of Canberra	15	3	1	0	11	24	43	11	
Burns Club	15	3	0	0	12	14	56	9	
Queanbeyan City	15	1	0	0	14	20	71	3	

Under 23s: University of Canberra 2 Monaro 2, Canberra Olympic 1 Belconnen United 2, Burns Club 1, Gungahlin Juventus 1, Queanbeyan City 1 Canberra Deakin, 20, Weston Creek Royals 2 Capital City Suns 1.

Points: University of Canberra 37, Belconnen United 36, Weston Creek Royals 32, Monaro 31, Canberra Olympic 26, Capital City Suns 20, Canberra Deakin 19, Gungahlin Juventus 18, Burns Club 14, Queanbeyan City 0.

Youth League (Cosmos Division): University of Canberra 2 Monaro 0, Canberra Olympic 1 Belconnen United 11, Burns Club 1, Gungahlin Juventus 3, Queanbeyan City 1 Canberra Deakin 5, Weston Creek Royals 2, Capital City Suns 2.

Points: Belconnen United 45, University of Canberra 38, Gungahlin Juventus 33, Weston Creek Royals 28, Canberra Deakin 26, Capital City Suns 18, Monaro 17, Canberra Olympic 9, Burns Club 8, Queanbeyan City 5.

Youth League (Rockets Division): Radford 1 Belwest Foxes 5.

Points: Tuggeranong United 41, Belconnen United 30, Belwest Foxes 23, Southern Spirit 15, Radford 12, Belconnen 6.

Division 2									
Defence Academy	1	Belwest Foxes	7						
ANU	1	Cooma	0						
O'Connor Knights	3	Tuggeranong United	2						
P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts		
O'Connor Knights	18	14	2	2	0	39	10	48	
Tuggeranong United	18	11	3	0	4	52	21	39	
Cooma	18	9	0	2	7	32	29	29	
Belwest Foxes	18	8	2	0	8	41	38	28	
ANU	18	6	4	1	7	33	30	27	
White Eagles	17	6	2	0	9	33	34	22	
Sabres	16	2	5	1	8	23	45	17	
Defence Academy	17	1	2	0	14	14	60	7	
Reserves: Defence Academy 1 Belwest Foxes 3, ANU 7, Cooma 0 O'Connor Knights 1 Tuggeranong United 1									
Points: O'Connor Knights 46, ANU 38, Tuggeranong									

United 36, Belwest Foxes 33, White Eagles 28, Defence Academy 15, Sabres 14, Cooma 4.

ACT STATE LEAGUE

Division 1: ANU 2 Gungahlin 1, University of Canberra 6 Southern Spirit 1, Belconnen United 1 Valley Blues 0.

Points: Belconnen United 49, Monaro 31, Gungahlin 26, Burns 26, ANU 25, Canberra City 20, University of Canberra 17, Valley Blues 14, Southern Spirit 4.

Division 2: ANU 3 Gungahlin 1, University of Canberra 10 Tuggeranong United 0, Belconnen United 6 Valley Blues Canberra City 1 Belwest Foxes 1.

Points: Belconnen United 37, ANU 37, Gungahlin Juventus 34, Burns Club 31, University of Canberra 31, Gungahlin 25, Belwest Foxes 24, Canberra City 14, Tuggeranong United 11, Valley Blues 5.

Division 3: University of Canberra 11 Harmonie 4 Belconnen United 7 Canberra City 1.

Points: Harmonie 45, Valley Blues 33, Weston Creek Royals 31, Fyshwick 30, Belconnen United 28, ANU 27, Defence Academy 18, Defence Academy 11, University of Canberra 16, Canberra City 9, Tuggeranong United 9, University of Canberra 10.

Division 4: University of Canberra 1 Harmonie 4.

Points: Trojans 40, Harmonie 37, ANU 36, University of Canberra 32, ANU 29, Weston Creek Royals 27, University of Canberra 23, Burns Club 21, Valley Blues 15, Fyshwick 12, Canberra City 5, Defence Academy 2.

Masters: Kambah Old Boys 1 University of Canberra 1, Belwest Foxes 1 Valley Blues 1.

Points: Canberra City 48, Canberra Deakin 45, University of Canberra 44, White Eagles 35, Kambah Rovers 35, Kambah Old Boys 32, St Francis 24, Belconnen United 22, ANU 22, Tuggeranong United 15, Belwest Foxes 15, Valley Blues 2.

ACT PREMIER LEAGUE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15

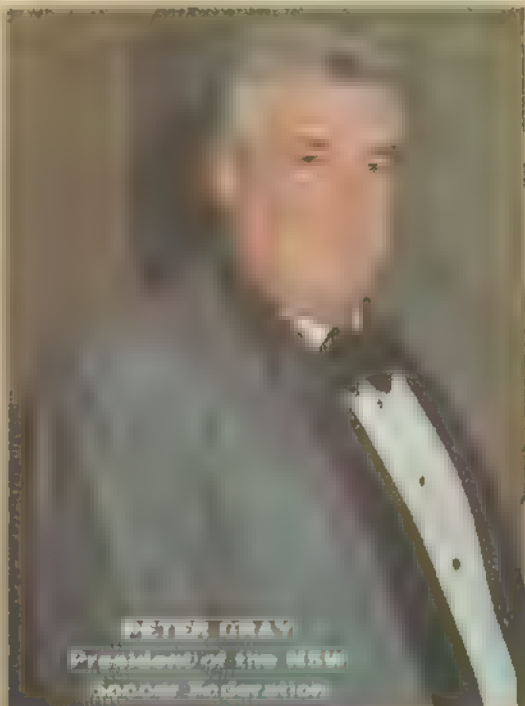
Belconnen United v University of Canberra	Hawker
Capital City Suns v Canberra Olympic	O'Connor
Gungahlin Juventus v Weston Creek Royals	Jamison
Queanbeyan City v Burns Club	Riverside
Canberra Deakin v Monaro	Deakin

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

PETER ('Shirley') PRESTON, the Central Coast's 28-year-old industrious attacking midfielder, last Friday night scored the golden goal of his life when he took out the prestigious Gold Medal award at the NSW Soccer Federation's annual Awards Night.

When Preston was ultimately declared the Gold Medal winner as the final votes were slowly unveiled to the audience of some 400-plus, the reception lounge at Bankstown in unison erupted



with a joyous cacophony rarely heard at any Awards Night.

The Awards Night was attended by no less than four Commissioners from Soccer Australia including Chairman Mr Basil Scarsella, Victoria's Joe Brondalino, NSW's Tony Labbozzetta and Tasmania's John Barker.

It was clear to one and all that Preston — who acquired his nickname of 'Shirley' as a youngster when he wore his hair very long — was a very



popular Medal winner.

Ironically it was just four years back that Preston's career in top grade Soccer seemed almost doomed when most unexpectedly the thinly built — but very confident midfielder was cut from the Macarthur Rams' first grade squad.

How things can change in Australian Soccer.

Preston is now almost assured of attracting attention from some of the NSL clubs seeking to bolster their squads for the coming season



starting in October.

Having scored 33 points at the end of the final Round of progressive voting, Preston notched up the extra two precious points he urgently needed



to gently edge out the Fairfield Bulls' Matthew Borg.

Borg with the Final Round to go, was jointly locked in on 31 points with the eventual winner.

The President of the NSW Soccer Federation, Mr Peter Gray, stated to ABSW: "If ever a player deserved this Gold Medal, it was Peter. He

worked really hard all season and to his credit finished up being very well recognised with his medal."

After Soccer Australia's Chairman Mr Basil Scarsella and Mr Peter Gray had jointly presented Preston with his Gold Medal, almost right to the end of the evening, the Central Coast's dynamic midfielder was swarmed by players, coaches and officials extending their

NSW SUPER LEAGUE AWARDS

- Fair Play Award** — Parramatta Eagles
- Under 21 Runners Up** — Macarthur Rams
- Under 21 Premiers** — Parramatta Eagles
- U/18 Runners Up** — Blacktown City Demons
- U/18 Premiers** — Parramatta Eagles
- First Grade Runners Up Premiers** — Blacktown City Demons
- First Grade Premiers** — Bonnyrigg White Eagles
- Club Champions** — Parramatta Eagles
- U/21 Player of the Year** — Daniel Farias (Sunderland)
- U/18 Player of the Year** — Ali Chanine (Eastern Suburbs)
- Referee of the Year** — Con Diomis
- Golden Boot Award** — Grant Bard and Matthew Borg
- Goalkeeper of the Year** — John Crawley
- Coach of the Year** — John Turner
- Journalist of the Year** — Paul Goodwin
- Gold Medal Winner for 1999** — Peter Preston

best wishes and heartiest of congratulations.

And did how Preston let them all know of his happiness, loud and clear with hugs and kisses to anyone within reach.

"Look mate, I'm soaking it all up," a very proud Preston parlayed to ABSW as we approached the Medal recipient for a brief interview.

Preston with a by now froggy throat went on to tell ABSW: "Look, this is a top night for me. After coming here (Awards Nights) over the last seven or eight years it's now unreal."

"It's so great seeing all the players that I've played against all season now coming up to me to congratulate me on my Medal."

"I still can't believe it."

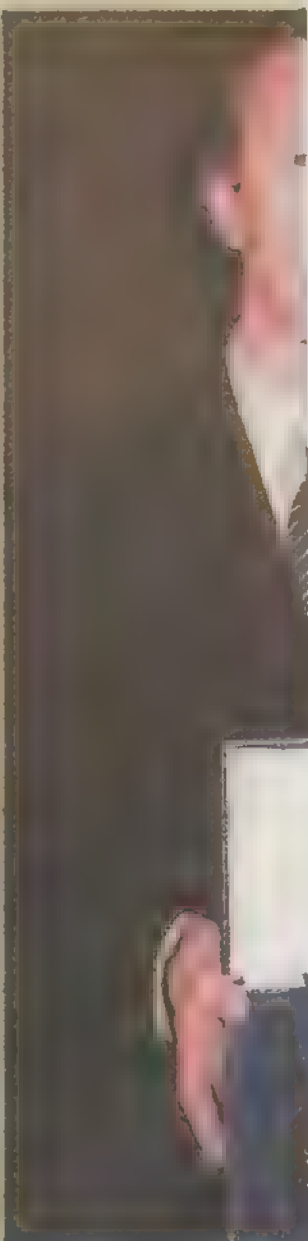
When ABSW questioned him what chances had he given himself of

winning the Medal, the fre gushed out: "Right till the ve had a chance."

"I thought 'Borgey' (Matt) it."

"But now I'm so very hap have easily have gone to 'B"

"As I said before, I'm just s



"I've played with a lot of g Gary Meier (Central Coast's tells me I'm a good player, to me."

"I couldn't have done it w other blokes at Central Coas

"All the other guys around all the hard yards for me."

"We started out in October month thing really, not just a

"Since I was seven years wanted to play in the NSL. N

"I just want someone to g the National League."

"I'm sure that I would give at it," ended the by now a uncontrollable joy, Preston.

The towering former goalkeeper Gary Meier, c aspirations and ability to ma

Meier who in his 23 ye gloves with first Pan Hellen Olympic, knows fully well w is like.

"Yes without doubt Peter t the NSL."

"It's a wonder he hasn't b NSL club before."

"But now with his Mede attract some serious focus c



ATION 1999 AWARDS

a-talking Preston just
ry end I didn't know I
new Borg) would win
py I've won. It could
orgey'.
oaking it all up.

the long serving goalie who at
the age of 44 is still making
incredible saves between the
uprights in the NSW Super
League.

Coach Of The Year

For the second
consecutive season,
Bonnyrigg White Eagles'
very alert and
moustachioed master,
John Turner, scored the
very well — deserved
'Coach Of The Year'
trophy.

The always jovial and sharp — witted
Turner, in accepting his treasured award,
uncharacteristically became very serious



"And especially all the other
coaches in the NSW Super
League that may not have had
the players to do even better,"
ended Turner.

Under 21 Player Of The Year.

This award was scored by
Sutherland's Uruguay — born
outstanding goalkeeper Daniel
Farias.

Making the lanky Daniel's
award even more meritorious is
the fact that he is only 18 years
of age.

Referee Of The Year.

The 38 year old lanky whistler Con Diomis who
as a junior started his career in Soccer as a
goalkeeper, was gracious in receiving his award.

NSW SUPPER LEAGUE GOLD MEDAL WINNER 1999

Name: Peter Preston

Date Of Birth: 6th March 1971

Previous Clubs: Illawarra Lions and Macarthur.

Current Club: Central Coast.

Current Position: Attacking Midfielder

Occupation: Accounts Clerk.

Best Aspect Of Your Game: Pace and an eye for goals from midfield.

Most Difficult Opponent: Damien Foxe (Blacktown City) and Richard Lloyd (Macarthur).

Most Impressive Local Player: Mile Sterjovski (Parramatta Power).

Favourite Overseas Player: David Beckham & Ryan Giggs.

Favourite Overseas Club: Obviously Manchester United.

What Qualities Make For A Good Coach: To be able to communicate well with all his players
and to be relaxed around the dressing rooms.

Honours: NSW Select 1999.

Ambitions For 1999: To play in the NSL this coming season.

Most Memorable Moment: Tonight (last Friday night by winning Player Of Year Award) and
every goal I've scored.

Most Regrettable Moment: Getting cut out by Macarthur back in 1995.

Hobbies Outside Soccer: Golf, plus the odd bet down at the pub.

Best Goal You've Seen Scored: A few ... Giggs' vs Arsenal in F.A. Cup this year, and Beckham's
free kick against Aston Villa, 1999.

Favourite Food: Pasta.

Car You Drive: Suzuki Swift G.T.i.

Favourite T.V.Show: World Soccer SBS.

Favourite Movie: Happy Gilmore.

Favourite Actor-Actress: Mel Gibson and Julia Roberts.

Preferred Music: Led Zeppelin and the Beatles.

Favourite Comedian: Billy Connolly.

Pet Hates: None.

Person You Would Like To Meet: David Beckham & Ryan Giggs.

Birthplace: Sydney.

Nickname: "Shirley".

Favourite Drink: Tooheys Black.

T.V.Show You Refuse To Watch: None
Favourite Comedian: Billy Connolly.

Least Preferred Music: Dance.



Both goalscorers nailed in 17 goals apiece.

Goalkeeper Of The Year

Macarthur Rams' tall custodian John Crawley
wrapped his gloves around the 'Real' sponsored



trophy, last year won by Sutherland's goalie, Paul
Henderson who now is on the books of NSL side
Northern Spirit.

The well experienced Crawley could easily
follow in Henderson's footsteps and climb into



Diomis stated to ABSW: "I started
in Soccer with the Under 8s at
Camden Tigers as a goalkeeper in
the late 70s and when I joined with
the Southern Districts, would you
believe it was tonight's John Turner
that took us to a couple of Grand
Finals?"

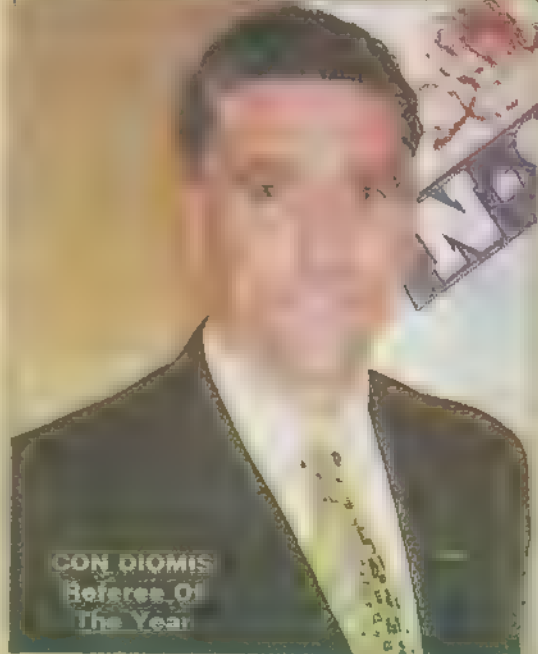
Con took up refereeing at the
tender age of 16 in the NSW
Federation and broke into the
National Soccer League in 1992
and has officiated in a Waratah
Cup Final and commanded last
year's Super League Grand Final.

One of the first to congratulate
Diomis on his award was last
year's winner, Boyd McGregor who

stated to ABSW: "A very well deserved choice."

Golden Boot Award

For the first time on record, this award was
jointly won by Parramatta's Grant Bard and the
Fairfield Bulls' Matthew Borg.

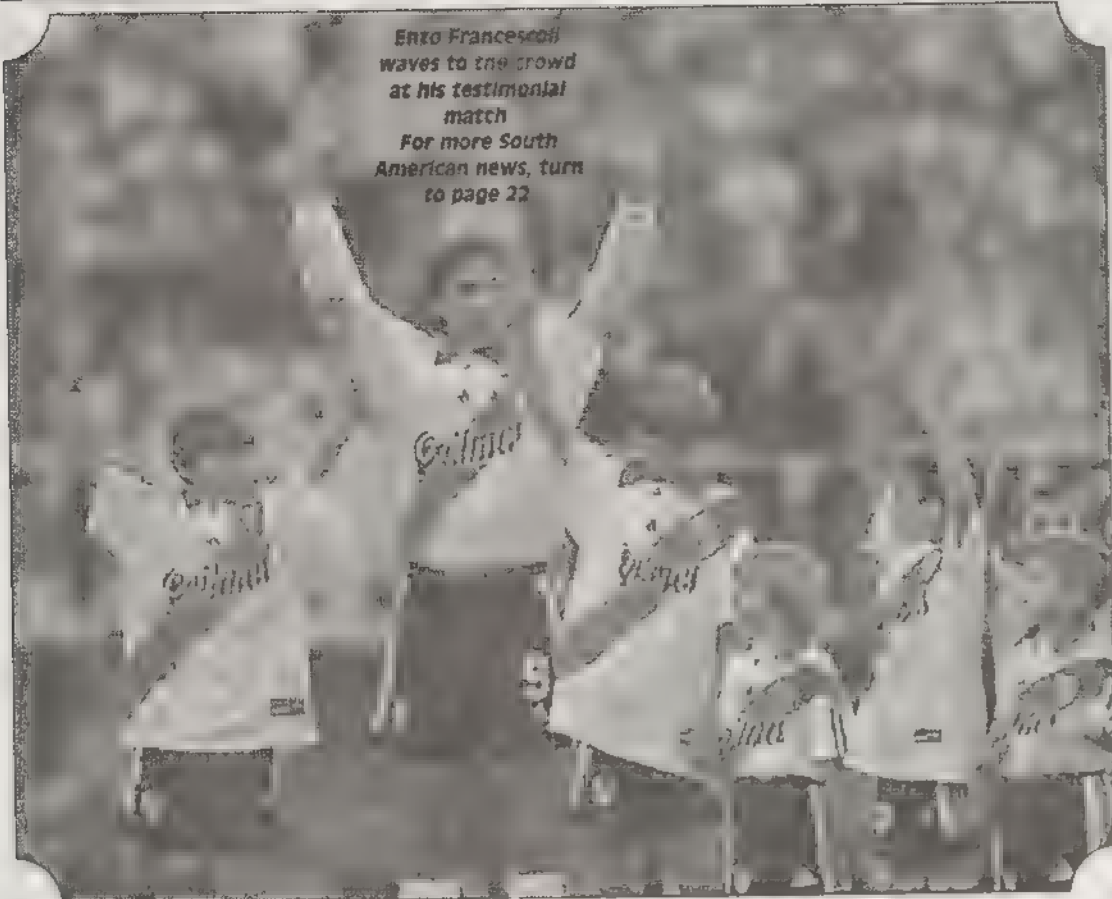


the NSL himself.

The powerfully built Crawley last year returned
from playing in the first division in Chile and is
expected to be snapped up soon by an NSL
club.

THE WEEK IN THE GLOBAL GAME SPONSORED BY THE FOUR DIEGOS RADIO SHOW AND ADELAIDE'S COAST FM SOCCER

Enzo Francescoli waves to the crowd at his testimonial match
For more South American news, turn to page 22



Mexico are number one after defeating Brazil 4-3 in the Confederations Cup final



Jorge Campos dives but fails to stop a penalty in the Confederations Cup final against Brazil



Brighton Balli of AC Milan watches on as Bayern Munich overtake the Bundesliga in this tussle. Bayern won 2-1. For more Italian news, turn to page 24.



Paraguay star Marcel Desailly heads the ball away from Nicola Pietrangeli in a testimonial match for the club. For more UK news, turn to page 27



AFRICA / ASIA



2002
FIFA WORLD CUP
KOREA/JAPAN

Asian boycott still a chance



FIFA president Sepp Blatter and Peter Velappan, head of the Asia Football Confederation, said that they were optimistic that an Asian boycott of the 2002 World Cup would be avoided.

The AFC has threatened to boycott the World Cup qualifying tournament if FIFA does not meet its demand for an extra berth in the championship jointly hosted by Japan and South Korea.

Blatter, who was in Mexico for FIFA's Confederations' Cup, said "more news" on the dispute would be issued before the end of August.

Blatter said he was "very confident that the family of FIFA will be united" before the draw for the qualifying tournament in Tokyo on December 7.

He gave no details but confirmed that he and AFC secretary general Velappan had met in Mexico to discuss the issue.

Asia's entire delegation stormed out of a July FIFA congress in Los Angeles over the issue.

With Japan and South Korea automatically qualifying for the finals as host nations, the 43 remaining AFC members will have to battle for the two spots left under the current Cup layout. The region had four spots in last year's finals in France.

Velappan said that the AFC had not dropped its five-berth demand.

"This is what we are looking for," he said after Blatter's news conference. "We have always stated it is a very fair demand. We had four teams in France and naturally we cannot have four teams in 2002."

But he said he thought an "amicable" solution to the row could be reached.

"We are progressing with a lot of determination," Velappan said. "Given the good will between all the parties we are very optimistic."

The AFC has said it would decide in October whether to go ahead with their boycott although Velappan declined to discuss the threat.

"We will not talk about that until the solution is forthcoming," he said.

The head of the Japanese Football Association has appealed to Asia's individual soccer federations to think of the future before backing a call to boycott the 2002 World Cup.

Shun-ichiro Okano, president of JFA and also a member of the 2002 World Cup organizing committee, admitted the dispute between the Asian Football Confederation and world governing body FIFA over World Cup places would be "very, very difficult to solve."

But Okano added that he "could not imagine" the first World Cup in Asia taking place without Asian teams other than co-hosts Japan and South Korea.

In an interview with Japan's Daily Yomiuri newspaper, he said: "Every member of the AFC is also an autonomous member of FIFA, and the door to FIFA House is open."

"They have to think not only of the present but also the future, because we are a football family."

FIFA and the Kuala Lumpur-based AFC have been in dispute since last December, when FIFA allocated only four of the 32 places for the 2002 World Cup to Asia, including automatic berths for Japan and South Korea. This would leave 43 countries fighting for the remaining two spots.

For the 1998 World Cup, Asia had three automatic places, plus a half-place via a play-off with the Oceania champions. Iran beat Australia in the two-leg play-off to join South Korea, Saudi Arabia and Japan in the tournament in France.

At last month's FIFA Congress in Los Angeles, UEFA offered Asia half a place via a play-off, giving the host continent of the next World Cup the chance of five teams.

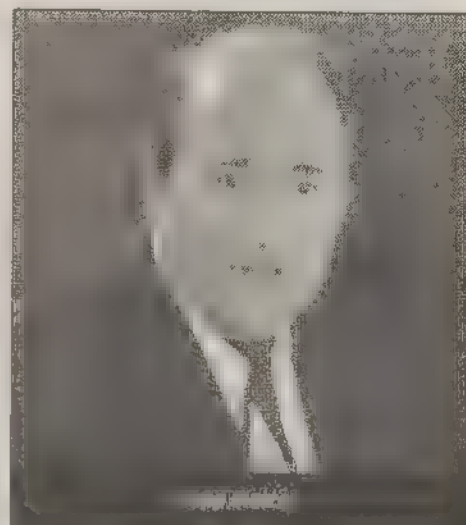
But the Asian delegates did not feel this was enough and walked out of the congress, repeating their threat to boycott the qualifying tournament if they did not get one more automatic place. The walkout was described as a "disgrace" by FIFA President Sepp Blatter.

Okano, very much the man in the middle of the dispute, said he had received letters from Blatter and AFC President Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah recently and the stand-off situation had not changed.

"The most important thing is for the dialogue between AFC and FIFA to begin immediately," he said.

"I hope that Asia's members on the FIFA executive committee can act as a bridge to solve the problem."

FIFA will discuss the matter again in Zurich on October 1-2, and the AFC has called an extraordinary

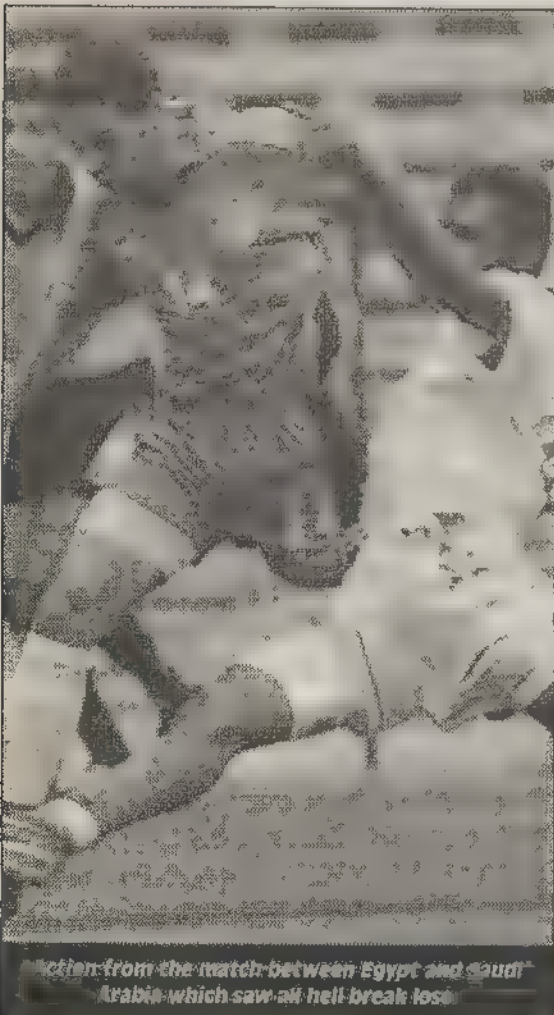


meeting for October 10, when delegates will decide whether to boycott the qualifying tournament, starting in March.

The draw for the 2002 World Cup qualifying tournament will take place in Tokyo on December 7, and the deadline for national football associations to register is September 30.

"I expect Asian associations to enter," Okano said. "Although the problem will be very, very difficult to solve, I cannot imagine the World Cup in Asia going ahead without Asian representatives."

Three Egyptians suspended



Soccer's governing body said it had suspended three Egyptian players and demanded a formal explanation for the team's behavior in an ill-tempered 5-1 defeat by Saudi Arabia in the Confederations' Cup.

"The Football Federation of Egypt has been given 10 days to explain the behavior of the technical bench and the players during and after the match," FIFA president Sepp Blatter told a news conference.

The Egyptians had strongly protested over the refereeing of Paraguayan Ubaldo Aquino in the Mexico City match that eliminated Egypt from the Cup and sent the Saudis through to the semifinals.

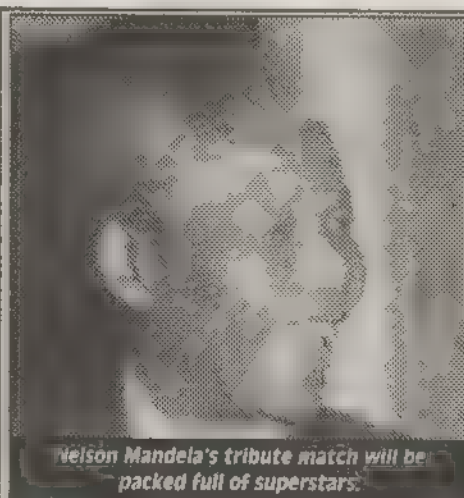
Blatter said Hazem Emam would be suspended for Egypt's next international after being shown two yellow cards by Aquino.

Abdelsatar Sabry, sent off after flooring a Saudi defender with an elbow, and Samir Ibrahim, dismissed for a crude tackle, were each suspended for two matches, Blatter said.

FIFA will decide on any further disciplinary action after receiving a reply from the Egyptians, Blatter said.

The board of the Egypt Football Association and national team coach Mahmoud el-Gohary resigned following the country's poor showing in the Confederations' Cup.

Egypt drew their two other matches in the tournament against Bolivia and Mexico.



Nelson Mandela's tribute match will be packed full of superstars.

Soccer great Kalusha Bwalya will line-up against the world's best players on August 17 when an Africa XI hosts the Tifa All-Stars in Johannesburg in a Nelson Mandela tribute match.

The Africa XI was named in Johannesburg by team manager Jomo Sono who said he had blended a team of experienced players and admirable young talent out to prove that Africa had the best players in the world.

Kalusha was not in the original African XI named earlier but it is believed that the inspirational Zambian captain would team up with his old foe and former African Footballer of the year Abedi Pele who is one of the five Ghanaians in the squad.

Other Ghanaians for the match scheduled for Ellis Park are Samuel Johnson, Osei Kuffour, Frank Amankwah and Adu Gyamfi.

Apart from the experience of Kalusha, the 1988 top African footballer and Pele, there is also Nigeria's Taribo West, Nwankwo Kanu, Celestine Babayaro and Austin Okacha.

Other veterans in the 30 member squad include Guinea's Aboubakar Titi-Camara and Said Chupa of Morocco.

They are no players from African champion Egypt and Tunisia who were two of Africa's five representatives at France '98 World Cup finals. No reasons were advanced for that.

Mandela tribute squad named

The others are South Africa who have 13 players in the team, Nigeria with six and Cameroon contributing Roger Feutumba.

The heart of the team is however the young players who include South Africa's Benedict McCarthy, Mark Fish and Lucas Radebe.

Other South Africans are Quinton Fortune, Phil Masinga and little known Godfrey Sapula, Thabang Lebesa and Lovers Mohlala.

The goalkeepers are South Africa's Brian Baloyi and William Okpara, the South Africa based Nigerian. The South Africa Football Association (Safa) said they were hoping Kalusha and all the African stars would accept the invitation to feature in the Mandela farewell match.

The full squad is as follows:

Brain Baloyi, Lucas Radebe, Mark Fish, Phil Masinga, Benedict McCarthy, Quinton Fortune, Steve Lekoelea, Thabo Mngomeni, Patrick Mayo, Joel Musilela, Thabang Lebesa, Lovers Mohlala, Godfrey Sapula, William Okpara, Nwankwo Kanu, Celestine Babayaro, Austine Okacha, Taribo West, Tijani Babangida, Osei Kuffour, Frank Amankwah, Adu Gyamfi, Samuel Johnson, Abedi Pele, Aboubakar Titi-Camara, Nonda Shabani, Donald-Olivier Sei, Said Chiba, Roger Feutumba, Kalusha Bwalya.

NORTH AMERICA

KELLER LEAVES LEICESTER

U.S. goalkeeper Kasey Keller finalized the details of a two-year contract with Spanish soccer club Rayo Vallecano as he joined his new team late last week.

"I am very excited about playing in Spain after eight years in England," Keller was quoted as saying in a U.S. Soccer Federation press release.

He is expected to join the team for preparations for its opening match of the season on Aug. 22 against Atletico Madrid.

Keller, 29, was quoted as saying from Mexico where he was with the U.S. team at the Confederations Cup.

Leicester signed England international Tim Flowers to replace Keller.

Rayo Vallecano is returning to the Spanish Primera league after two seasons in the second division.

The club's other preseason acquisitions include German midfielder Gerhard Poschner, and Israeli forward Ner Sibiha.

Raul Diaz Arce of the Tampa Bay Mutiny has been named as the MLS Player of the Week for the period ending Sunday, after scoring three goals in two games.

Diaz Arce, a new addition and the first Tampa Bay player to earn the award this year, also added three assists in games against the Miami Fusion and the New England Revolution.

He posted a six-point effort against the Revolution, one of his former teams.

Diaz Arce is the second all-time scorer in the MLS with 152 career points (65 goals, 22 assists).

He also has played for D.C. United, New England and San Jose and was a member of the MetroStars, for whom he never played. The diminutive player joined Tampa Bay four games ago from San Jose.

Others considered for the Week 20 honor were Colorado goalkeeper Ian Feuer and Columbus Crew forward Stern John.

International striker Ariel Graziani was allocated to the New England Revolution after transferring to MLS last week in a league-record deal worth nearly \$2 million.

Graziani, 28, was the top scorer this year for Mexican first division club Morelia and was previously the leading scorer for Veracruz in Mexico. He also led the Ecuadorian league in goal scoring with Emelec in 1996 and 1997, scoring 52 goals in 69 games.

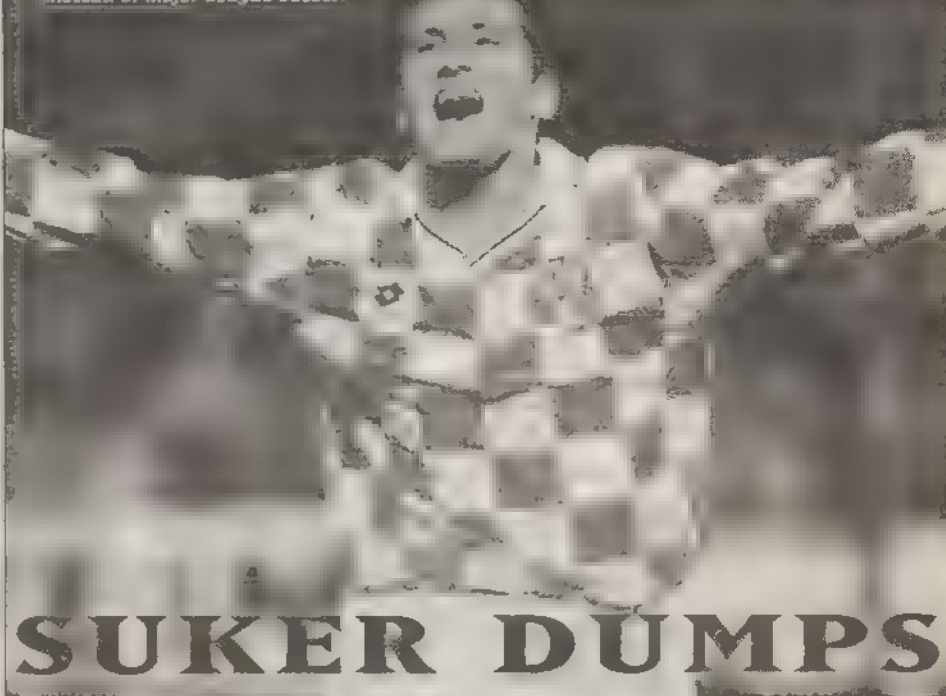
Born in Argentina, but a citizen of Ecuador, Graziani has finished among the top 10 goal scorers in Mexico in each of the last two seasons.

Walter Zenga, the Revolution's head coach, said the team hopes to have Graziani in uniform when the Revolution takes on the Tampa Bay Mutiny in Florida.



Keller, who played for English Premier League club Leicester City the last three seasons, was courted by several clubs for the upcoming season, including two in Mexico, according to the U.S. federation statement. "Playing in Europe was the best decision for me."

Davor Suker has opted for Arsenal instead of Major League Soccer



SUKER DUMPS

US FOR UK

Croatian striker Davor Suker reportedly turned down a 4 million pound (US\$6.4 million) transfer offer to join Major League Soccer, favoring instead a move to London-based Arsenal.

The Evening Standard newspaper reported Suker, who was the leading scorer in the '98 World Cup, was on the verge of signing with MLS and joining the MetroStars before accepting a last-minute deal from the Gunners.

The Standard quoted Suker's English soccer advisor Ray Bloomfield saying the 31-year-old striker was being recruited to become the "focal point of soccer in North America."

"Four million pounds [US\$6.4 million] is a lot of money in [MLS], but they were prepared to do it so they could have a player of Suker's reputation over there."

The MetroStars, however, have been in the center of several misplaced transfer rumors in the past and this has now added to the list of possible recruits to the team.

Players such as 1994 Italian hero, Roberto Baggio, Africa's George Weah and former German striker

Jurgen Klinsmann have been erroneously linked to the New York-area club.

Suker completed a 3.5 million pound (US\$5.64 million) transfer from Spanish giant Real Madrid to Arsenal only a matter of hours after the announcement that Nicolas Anelka was moving to Spain.

The deal has reportedly halved his salary from 40,000 pounds (US\$64,400) per week to 20,000 pounds (US\$32,200) per week.

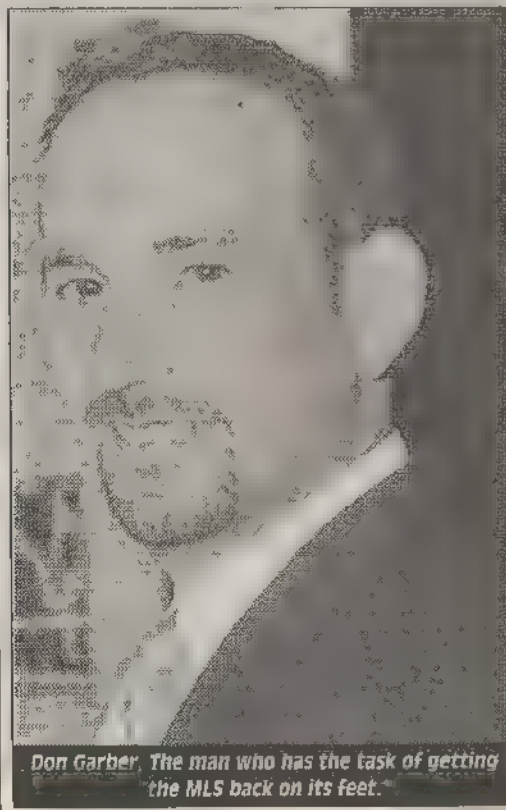
Suker, who joined Real Madrid in 1996, had a falling out with coach John Toshack last season, which prompted his move.

The powerful striker won the Golden Boot -- for the most goals scored in the World Cup finals -- when he scored six goals as Croatia finished in third place but in the year following the World Cup, failed to reach the highs that he achieved in France.

The Gunners will now have four of the world's best strikers on board with new signings Suker and Thierry Henry, and old boys Kanu and Bargkamp.

All looks well for the Gunners this season as they chase Manchester United for glory.

MLS GOES TO NFL FOR HELP



Don Garber, The man who has the task of getting the MLS back on its feet.

Seeking more fans and higher television ratings, Major League Soccer has turned to the NFL for some much needed help.

Don Garber, who has spent the last three years running the NFL's European league, was hired as MLS commissioner.

Doug Logan, the only commissioner in the four years of the soccer league, was forced to resign.

"Yesterday I was an 'is,'" Logan said at the start of the news conference. "Today I'm a 'was.' Tomorrow, I assure you, I'm going to be an 'is' again. There's no elegant way to say I was fired."

His resignation was sought by Stuart Subotnick, the MLS board of governors chairman of the New York-New Jersey MetroStars.

"Don brings expertise that Doug didn't have," said Subotnick, adding that the league must pay more attention to fans.

"A fan is no different than a customer," he said. "If you want a successful business, you need to get the loyalty of the customer, in this case the fan."

"We started with a bang, it leveled off and we're creeping up again. That's OK if you want a mid-dling business. We don't."

Subotnick repeatedly referred to Garber's experience in marketing and public relations.

"We have not done a good job promoting the players," he said. "That's part of what you're going

to find Don doing over time."

Garber is not well versed in soccer, but Subotnick said that will not be a liability. He pointed to Garber's success at introducing American football into Europe.

MLS attendance has only started to rebound after two straight years of decline, and is still well below the average crowd of 17,406 it achieved in its first season.

The league's TV ratings are flat, and have been that way since the beginning of the league's second year.

And some team officials have grumbled about Logan, particularly following his dismissal of deputy commissioner Sunil Gulati in February.

Gulati has been a major figure in American soccer for more than a decade. He played a key role in the organizing committee of the 1994 World Cup, the U.S. Soccer Federation and the formation of MLS.

Gulati remains a consultant with the league, but Subotnick said he would not join the new administration.

Logan acknowledged he no longer had the confidence of the board of governors. When he finished his remarks, he stepped down from the dais and left the

room. Garber and Subotnick then spoke.

"We're at an OK level, but not where we want to be as far as fan participation," Subotnick said in introducing Garber.

Garber, 41, has spent the last 15 years as a senior marketing and management executive with the NFL. Since 1996, he has been senior vice president/managing director of NFL International.

He was responsible for managing all business of the NFL outside the United States, overseeing TV production and distribution, marketing and fan development activities, sponsorship sales and licensing.

"He took a foreign sport and achieved success with it in an area of the world where they don't play the game or view it on a regular basis,"

Subotnick said. "Don's experience will help MLS capitalize on the extraordinary opportunity to make its mark among American sports spectators."

Garber said he wants to establish a closer connection to those who play soccer.

"I want to translate the tens of millions who play the game into those who go and watch it on TV," he said.



Compiled by

CONFEDERATIONS CUP

Soccer Weekly



HOSTS MEXICO WIN CONFEDERATIONS CUP



HOT MEXICANS GET REVENGE FOR COPA LOSS

MEXICO 4
BRAZIL 3

Mexico won soccer's Confederations Cup as they beat Brazil 4-3 in an electrifying final that ended decades of frustration for Mexico's long-suffering fans.

In capturing their most important international championship to date, the Mexicans handed the Brazil a defeat that had to bring back nightmares from France '98.



Zepeda scored two for Mexico.

A year after defending champions Brazil lost to hosts France in the World Cup final, the scenario was repeated for the Brazilians before a massive crowd of 115,000 who jammed into Mexico City's Azteca Stadium.

Brazil, however, played the eight-nation

Confederations Cup without most of its top stars, including Rivaldo, Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos, who led the South American side to the Copa America championship last month. Brazil beat Mexico twice in that tournament which was recently played in Paraguay.

Mexico squandered an early 2-0 lead in this final, but took advantage of Brazil's relentless attacking to put the match away with deadly counter strikes.

The win vindicated Mexican coach Manuel Lapuente who had predicted the championship, despite his many doubting countrymen.

"I said it and it was confirmed. The Cup was going to stay in Mexico," Lapuente said.

Brazilian coach Wanderley Luxemburgo attributed the loss to sloppy defending but said many of the young players he brought would learn from the defeat.

"Mexico beat us well and this will serve as experience for us," he said. "We're on the right track for improving in the future."

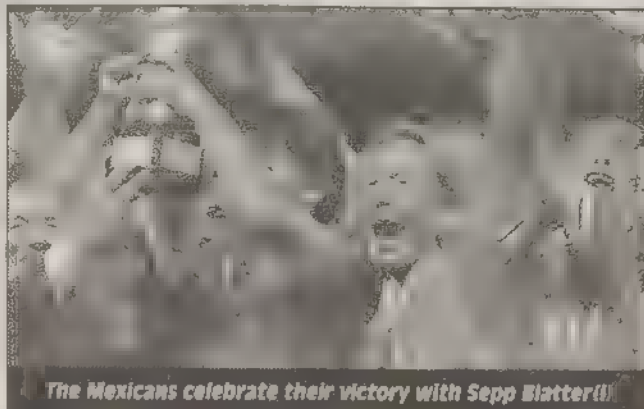
Mexico struck first at the 13th minute when Miguel Zepeda was fed with a pass through the Brazilian defence from Cuauhtemoc Blanco.

Zepeda hit a high shot from the edge of the box that Brazilian goalkeeper Dida, who had only surrendered two goals in four prior tournament matches, got his hands on but was unable to keep from trickling into the back of the net.

Mexico increased its advantage at the 28th minute after Blanco set up Jose Manuel Abundis, whose low left-footed drive beat Dida inside the near post.

The magic the Brazilians displayed in the tournament's early rounds, including a 4-0 drubbing of Germany and an 8-2 semifinal win over Saudi Arabia, seemed to elude them for most of the first half.

While accustomed to adoring crowds in Guadalajara, the Brazilians' home base in the World Cups of 1970 and 1986, Luxemburgo's squad faced a constant stream of boos and cat-calls from the



The Mexicans celebrate their victory with Sepp Blatter (l).

parisian Azteca Stadium fans.

But as the Mexican defence appeared to relax heading into the break, Ronaldo Assis was brought down in the box by Mexico's German Villa. Serginho coolly converted the penalty at the 43rd minute.

The Brazilians came charging out of the gate in the second half, again taking advantage of a distracted Mexican back line.

Ronaldo Assis, the 19-year-old sensation popularly known as Ronaldinho, fed a perfectly timed low cross that squirted by Mexican keeper Jorge Campos to the feet to Roni.

Roni, who had just entered that game as a second-half substitute, fired into an open net at the 47th minute.

Just as the Brazilians seemed to be taking control of the match, Mexico struck.

A shot from Francisco Palencia deflected off a Brazilian defender, and while Dida appealed for off-sides, Zepeda beat him again at the 51st minute.

Mexico appeared to put the game comfortably out of hand at the 62nd minute.

On a quick counter attack, Blanco collected a long ball from Rafael Marquez, eluded a Brazilian defender

and beat Dida with a low driving shot inside the far post.

But the crowd's euphoria turned into nail biting as Brazil cut the lead to one goal just a minute later.

Ze Roberto snuck in behind the Mexican defence to drive home a Roni cross from close range.

Mexico, however, withstood the Brazilians' onslaught in the game's remaining minutes, helping bury fans' memories of countless heartbreaking defeats on the international stage.

Mexico: 1-Jorge Campos, 2-Claudio Suarez, 4-Rafael Marquez, 6-German Villa, 7-Ramon Ramirez, 9-Jose Manuel Abundis, 10-Cuauhtemoc Blanco, 13-Pavel Pardo, 17 Francisco Palencia (14-Isaac Terrazas 70th minute), 18-Salvador Carmona, 19-Miguel Zepeda (16-Jesus Arellano 83rd minute)

Brazil: 1-Dida, 3-Odvan, 4-Joao Carlos (sent off 92nd minute), 5-Flavio Conceicao, 6-Serginho, 7-Ronaldinho, 8-Emerson, 10-Alex, 11-Ze Roberto (19-Warley 82nd minute), 17-Beto (Roni), 20-Vampeta.

ALL STARS

The Confederations Cup All-Star team announced by FIFA's technical committee:

Goalkeeper: Kasey Keller, United States.

Defenders: Lothar Matthaus, Germany; Claudio Suarez, Mexico; Ibrahim Hassan, Egypt; Serginho Dos Santos, Brazil.

Midfielders: Flavio Conceicao, Brazil; Radwan Yasser, Egypt; Pavel Pardo, Mexico; Ze Roberto, Brazil.

Forwards: Ronaldinho, Brazil; Cuauhtemoc Blanco, Mexico.

Substitutes: Jorge Campos, GK, Mexico; Saleh Al Dawod, defender Saudi Arabia; Reny Rivera, defender, Bolivia; Emerson Ferreira da Rosa, Brazil; Marzouk Al Otaibi, forward, Saudi Arabia.

US SURPRISES ALL TO TAKE THIRD

US 2
SAUDI ARABIA 0

The United States defeated Saudi Arabia 2-0 to take third place in soccer's Confederations Cup.

The victory capped a strong performance in the tournament by the U.S. team, which

defeated Germany 2-0 and came close to tying with Brazil.

Although it all could have started bad for the Americans as Saudi Arabia's Abdullah Bin Shehan knocked a pass into the U.S. goal with his arm at the 23-minute mark, and officials quickly disallowed the goal.

"It was a difficult match," U.S. coach Bruce Arena said.

"Saudi Arabia was a very tough adversary. It was a hard-fought match and we are pleased with the results."

The U.S. opened the scoring at 26 minutes on a break by forward Paul Bravo, who beat defensemen and Saudi goalkeeper Mohammed Al Deayea to slice a clean shot into the goal.

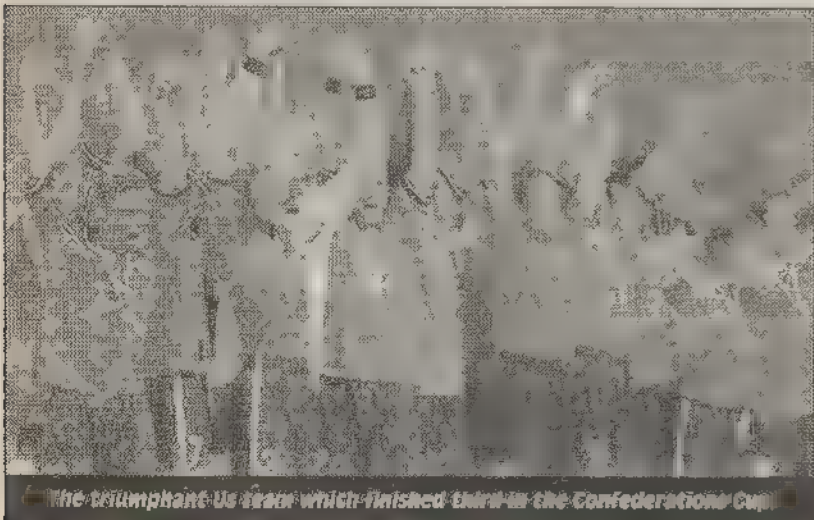
The U.S. played most of the second period down one player, after Matt McKeon was sent-off after 64 minutes.

Brian McBride headed a pass into the Saudi goal in the 79th minute mark to seal the U.S. victory.

The U.S. squad allowed the Saudi's very few shots and kept the quicker Saudi forwards from penetrating.

"We are happy because this tournament is worth a lot, since it's our first semi-final finish in an international cup," Saudi coach Milan Macala said.

In the final, Mexico surprised Brazil by four goals to three.



The triumphant U.S. team which finished third in the Confederations Cup.



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STH AMERICA

Two killed in Mexican celebrations

A 10-year-old girl and a teenage boy were killed in separate accidents during late-night festivities celebrating Mexico's victory in the Confederations Cup tournament.

Fatima Sheila Torres Rodriguez died when she was struck by a in downtown Mexico City, the government news agency Notimex reported.

Seventeen-year-old Luis Alberto Monreal Ibarra was electrocuted shortly after leaving Azteca Stadium where Mexico's national team beat Brazil 4-3.

Ibarra and a friend came in contact with power cables while crossing a pedestrian bridge, the report said. The friend was hospitalized with burns.

Thousands of Mexicans took to the streets to celebrate the nation's first victory in a major international soccer tournament.

The Brazilians' performance was all the more remarkable as they played most of the second half with just nine men.

Fabao was sent off and Rodrigo Mendez could not be replaced when he limped off as Flamengo had used all three substitutes.

In the other group E match Paraguay's Olimpia beat Universidad de Chile 2-0 in Asuncion, their goals coming from Richard Baez and Francisco Esteche, a penalty.

In Group C, San Lorenzo battled to a 1-0 victory over Argentine rivals Boca Juniors in Buenos Aires to end Boca's 40-game winning streak.

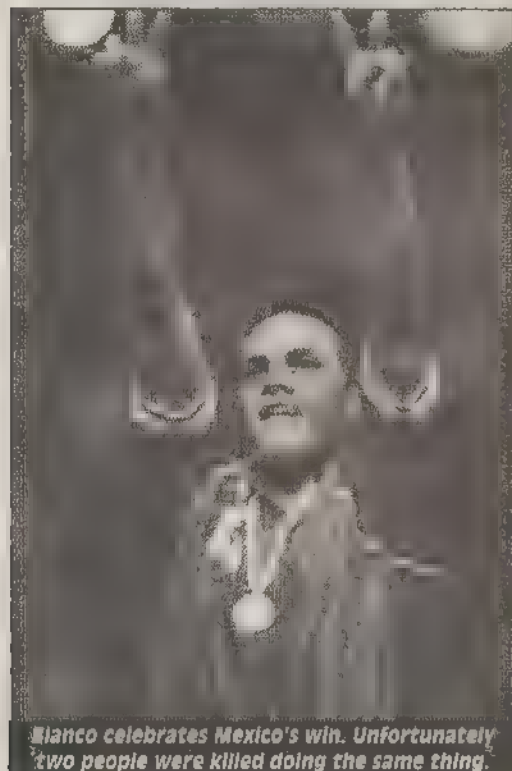
San Lorenzo went ahead with an Ariel Lopez goal in the 15th minute and continued to dominate the match despite having Horacio Ameli sent off in the 42nd minute.

Luizao was on the scoresheet again as Corinthians stayed top of the Brazilian championship with a 2-0 away victory over Guarani. Luizao struck in the eighth minute to take his goals tally to six after just three matches of the new season. Marcelinho added a second in the 24th minute.

Guarani's hopes of hauling themselves back into the match disappeared in the second half when Andres Gomes was sent off for violent conduct.

Sao Paulo moved into second place with an emphatic 6-1 win away to Botafogo.

Botafogo finished the match with just nine players after Marcelinho Paulista and Darci were dismissed for violent play.



Nine-man Flamengo crushed Chile's Colo Colo 4-0 to go top of Group E in the Mercosur Cup in Santiago.

Rodrigo Mendez scored two of the goals in the 12th and 45th minutes while Romario (21) and Fabio Barano (80) were also on target.

Mercosur Cup results/standings

GROUP A							
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Palmeiras (BRA)	2	1	1	0	10	3	4
Cruzeiro (BRA)	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
River Plate (ARG)	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Racing (ARG)	1	0	0	1	0	7	0

Tuesday, July 27
River Plate 3, Palmeiras 3

Tuesday, Aug. 3
Cruzeiro 2, River Plate 0

Thursday, Aug. 5
Palmeiras 7, Racing Club 0

Thursday, Aug. 12
At Buenos Aires, Argentina
River Plate vs. Racing Club

Thursday, Aug. 26
At Sao Paulo, Brazil
Palmeiras vs. Cruzeiro

Wednesday, Sept. 1
At Belo Horizonte, Brazil
Cruzeiro vs. Racing Club

Thursday, Sept. 2
At Sao Paulo, Brazil
Palmeiras vs. River Plate

Thursday, Sept. 9
At Avellaneda, Argentina
Racing Club vs. Palmeiras

Wednesday, Sept. 15
At Avellaneda, Argentina
Racing Club vs. Cruzeiro

Thursday, Sept. 23
At Buenos Aires, Argentina
River Plate vs. Cruzeiro

Wednesday, Oct. 6
At Avellaneda, Argentina
Racing Club vs. River Plate
At Belo Horizonte, Brazil
Cruzeiro vs. Palmeiras

GROUP B							
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Independiente (ARG)	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Velez Sarsfield (ARG)	2	0	1	0	2	2	2
Gremio (BRA)	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Corinthians (BRA)	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

Wednesday, July 28
Corinthians 1, Independiente 2
Velez Sarsfield 1, Gremio 1

Thursday, Aug. 5
Independiente 1, Velez Sarsfield 1

Tuesday, August 10
At Buenos Aires, Argentina
Velez Sarsfield vs. Corinthians

Wednesday, Aug. 11
At Porto Alegre, Brazil
Gremio vs. Independiente

Tuesday, Aug. 24
Gremio vs. Velez Sarsfield

Friday, Aug. 27
At Porto Alegre, Brazil
Gremio vs. Corinthians

Wednesday, Sept. 1
At Buenos Aires, Argentina
Velez Sarsfield vs. Independiente

Thursday, Sept. 16
At Sao Paulo, Brazil
Corinthians vs. Gremio

Tuesday, Sept. 28
At Avellaneda, Argentina
Independiente vs. Corinthians

Thursday, Oct. 5
At Sao Paulo, Brazil
Corinthians vs. Velez Sarsfield
At Avellaneda, Argentina
Independiente vs. Gremio

GROUP C							
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boca Juniors (ARG)	2	1	0	1	5	2	3
San Lorenzo (ARG)	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Univ. Catolica (CHI)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sao Paulo (BRA)	1	0	0	1	1	5	3

Thursday, July 29
Universidad Catolica 1, San Lorenzo 0

Saturday, July 31
Boca Juniors 5, Sao Paulo 1

Wednesday, Aug. 4
San Lorenzo 1, Boca Juniors 0

Wednesday, Aug. 11
At Santiago, Chile
Universidad Catolica vs. Sao Paulo

Wednesday, Aug. 25
Sao Paulo vs. San Lorenzo

Thursday, Aug. 26
Boca Juniors vs. Universidad Catolica

Tuesday, Sept. 7
San Lorenzo vs. Universidad Catolica

Wednesday, Sept. 8
Sao Paulo vs. Boca Juniors

Wednesday, Sept. 22
Sao Paulo vs. Universidad Catolica
Boca Juniors vs. San Lorenzo

Saturday, Oct. 7
San Lorenzo vs. Sao Paulo
Universidad Catolica vs. Boca Juniors

GROUP D							
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nacional (URU)	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Vasco da Gama (BRA)	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Penarol (URU)	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Cerro Porteno (PAR)	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

Wednesday, July 28
Nacional 3, Cerro Porteno 1

Thursday, July 29
Penarol 2, Vasco da Gama 1

Tuesday, Aug. 3
Vasco da Gama 1, Nacional 0

Wednesday, Aug. 11
Cerro Porteno vs. Penarol

Tuesday, Aug. 24
Cerro Porteno vs. Vasco da Gama

Wednesday, Aug. 25
Penarol vs. Nacional

Tuesday, Aug. 31
Vasco da Gama vs. Penarol

Tuesday, Sept. 7
Nacional vs. Vasco da Gama

Tuesday, Sept. 14
Penarol vs. Cerro Porteno

Wednesday, Sept. 29
Cerro Porteno vs. Nacional

Thursday, Oct. 5
Nacional vs. Penarol

Thursday, Oct. 5
Vasco da Gama vs. Cerro Porteno

GROUP E							
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Flamengo (BRA)	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
Olimpia (PAR)	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Colo Colo (CHI)	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Universidad de Chile	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

Thursday, July 27
Flamengo 2, Olimpia 1

Wednesday, July 28
Universidad de Chile 0, Colo Colo 2

Wednesday, Aug. 4
Colo Colo 0, Flamengo 4
Olimpia 2, Universidad de Chile 1

Thursday, Aug. 12
Colo Colo vs. Olimpia

Thursday, Aug. 26
Universidad de Chile vs. Flamengo

Wednesday, Sept. 8
Olimpia vs. Flamengo

Thursday, Sept. 9
Colo Colo vs. Universidad de Chile

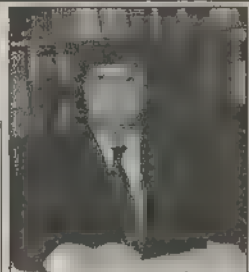
Wednesday, Sept. 15
Universidad de Chile vs. Olimpia

Tuesday, Sept. 21
Flamengo vs. Colo Colo

Saturday, Oct. 7
Olimpia vs. Colo Colo
Flamengo vs. Universidad de Chile

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ITALY

Sports Weekly

CASIRAGHI FEARS HIS CAREER IS OVER

Chelsea's Italian striker Pierluigi Casiraghi fears that his career could be over after nine months out with a knee injury.

"I have no idea when I will play again," the 30-year-old former Italian international told The Sun newspaper.

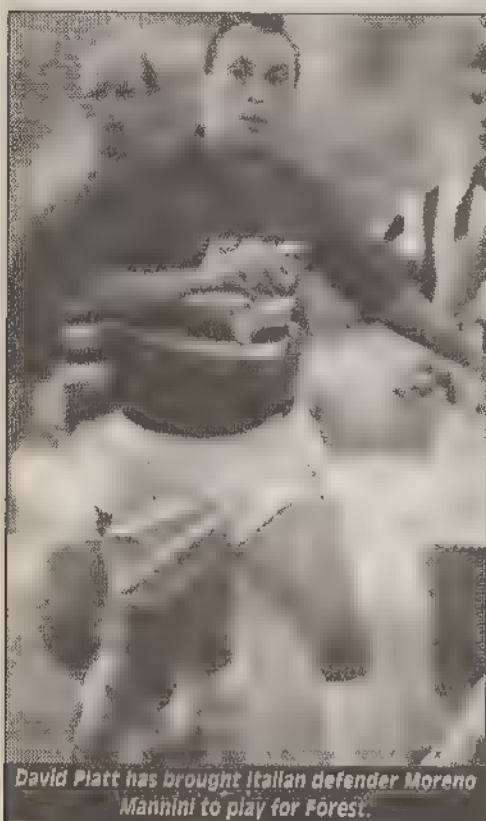
"All I want is to get back on a football field for one game, it doesn't matter if it's in the third division, Serie C or an amateur side," he added.

Casiraghi played 12 games for Chelsea last season after joining from Lazio in an \$8.99 million transfer.

and has had seven operations since then. "The pain has gone," he told the Sun. "But every day is a battle. I'm having to work very hard."

Italian club Perugia has been fined 10 million lire (\$5,562) and had goalkeeper Angelo Pagotto banned for two games after a mass brawl in a friendly against the Libyan national team.

The Italian Football League, which carried out an inquiry into the incident, also fined Perugia striker Giovanni Tedesco 10 million lire for his role in the fracas.



David Platt has brought Italian defender Moreno Mannini to play for Forest.

He tore knee ligaments and damaged nerves in a collision with West Ham goalkeeper Shaka Hislop in early November

Giovanni Trapattoni, coach of Italian Serie A side Fiorentina, denied a report that his club had made a bid to buy

England international David Beckham from Manchester United.

The Sunday Mirror said Fiorentina offered a world record fee of \$56.7 million for Beckham.

The newspaper quoted Trapattoni as saying he had been urged to approach United by his Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta.

But Trapattoni insisted. "I have never made such a statement regarding this."

"Perhaps our president Vittorio Cecchi Gori (a leading Italian film producer) wanted to give Beckham a film contract."

Nottingham Forest manager David Platt has signed veteran Italian defender Moreno Mannini on a free transfer from Sampdoria.

Platt, a former teammate of Mannini at the Serie A club, described the 36-year-old as "the shrewdest defender I've ever played with."

He has played more than 400 times for Sampdoria in 13 years at the club.

The former England midfielder is not worried about Mannini's age and believes he can play a major role this season in securing Forest's promotion back into the premier league after being relegated last season.

Platt, who played in the Serie A with Bari, Juventus and Sampdoria before helping Arsenal to the English Cup and League double in 1997-98, is reported to be chasing two other Italian players.

Defender Salvatore Matrecano and midfielder Gianluca Petrachi of Perugia are reported to be joining on four-year deals worth a total cost of 7.5 billion Italian lira (\$4.14 million).

A Forest spokesman said the reports "were not a million miles wide of the mark" but could not confirm the deals had been settled.

WESTS REFUSES TO MOVE EAST

Nigeria defender Taribo West turned down a move from Inter Milan to Turkey's Galatasaray and has criticized Inter's attempts to sell him.

West, who appears not to feature in the plans of new Inter coach Marcello Lippi, has been linked with moves to a number of European clubs this summer but the Nigerian international says he will not be rushed into a hasty departure.

"I am not some item in a sale that can be bought on the cheap," West told the Italian daily paper, Tuttosport.

"I spoke with (Inter president Massimo) Moratti a month ago and he explained to me why I had to leave. That's fine, I accepted it, but the club Inter finds for me has to be one I like."

Clearly Galatasaray was not a club West considered suitable thus his refusal to move to the Turkish giants.

"No one can say that Taribo West is finished as a player and that he can go to Turkey or Greece. When I go, I will go to a club on a level with Inter," he said.

West, 25, has two years remaining on his contract with Inter and says he is prepared to hold out for the right deal even if it means being left on the sidelines at Inter.

"It is possible I will wait for three or six months. There is a lot of my career left. I could play for another 10 years, so what is six months?"

With a number of the major European leagues kicking off in the next few weeks, West must work with Inter club officials to find a club which he is happy with and the sooner the better for the Nigerian defender who played an integral part in Nigeria's World Cup.



LAZIO FANS TURN ON ITALIAN HERO



Lazio's number one last year is this year's villain at the Roman club.

Fans of Serie A club Lazio, bitter at the sale of Christian Vieri to Inter Milan, have been burning billboards featuring the Italian striker.

Vieri appears in an advertising campaign

for a credit card, which features him posing next to the figure 90 billion lire (\$49.5 million), the world record transfer fee paid by Inter for Vieri in June.

The daily Gazzetta dello Sport reported that billboards in Rome, home of Lazio, have been burned as well as daubed with anti-Vieri graffiti in a bid to remove Vieri's presence from the walls of the capital.

DJORKAEFF MOVES TO GERMANY

After a frustrating season with Inter Milan, World Cup winner Youri Djorkaeff is looking towards a new start in the Bundesliga with Kaiserslautern.

Kaiserslautern board member Gerhard Herzog said that both sides had reached an agreement, and the 31-year-old could make his debut when the 1997-1998 German champions entertain Borussia Dortmund in their first match of the new season on August 14.

"Inter have agreed to release Youri," Herzog said. "A few details still have to be sorted out, but we will do everything so that he can play in our first match against Dortmund."

Herzog said the Frenchman was expected to sign a three-year contract.

According to press reports, Kaiserslautern will pay Inter around four million marks (US\$2.21 million) for the newcomer, who will receive an annual salary of around 3.6 million marks.

A member of the French squad that won the World Cup last year, Djorkaeff joined Inter Milan from Paris St Germain in 1996. He was a regular in the Inter first team until last season, during which he was often left on the sidelines.

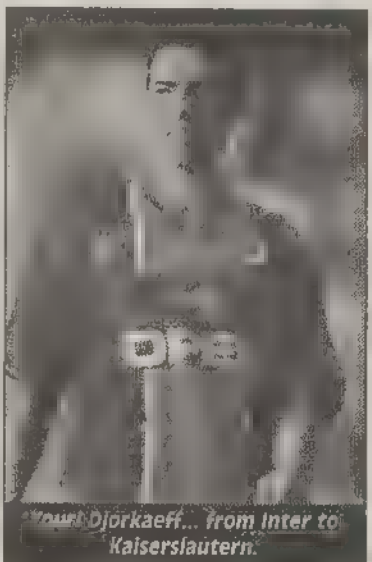
The attacking midfielder said last May that he would leave the Italian club.

He had been approached by several European sides, including Greek club Panathinaikos.

At Kaiserslautern, Djorkaeff will play

alongside Swiss international Ciriaco Sforza, who was his teammate at Inter in the 1996-97 season.

Djorkaeff becomes the second member of France's World Cup squad in the Bundesliga. French wing back Bixente Lizarazu has been with Bayern Munich since 1997.



Youri Djorkaeff... from Inter to Kaiserslautern.

A gifted midfielder with playmaking skills, Djorkaeff can also score. With 20 goals from 54 caps, he is by far the most prolific scorer in France's current squad.

Youri Djorkaeff, who is joining German club Kaiserslautern from Inter Milan.

Youri Djorkaeff Profile

1968 Born March 9, Lyon, France.

1999 Joins Kaiserslautern in August.

1988-89 Joins Grenoble

International record:

1989-90 Moves to Strasbourg

1993 Makes his international debut in a World Cup qualifier against Israel, coming on as a substitute for David Ginola.

1990-95 Transferred to Monaco. Wins the French Cup in 1991.

1998 Member of France's World Cup-winning squad.

In 1992 he reaches the European Cup winners' Cup final, losing to Werder Bremen

Other facts:

1995-96 Paris St Germain. Wins European Cup winners' Cup in 1996 before leaving for Inter Milan.

With 20 goals in 54 caps, he is the most prolific goalscorer in France's current squad.

1996-98 Inter Milan. Loses to Schalke 04 in the 1997 UEFA Cup final

His father, Jean, was also a French international in the late 1960s and 1970s, captaining the side on occasion.

EUROPE

IN BRIEF

Newcastle and Sweden striker Andreas Andersson has signed a three-year contract with AIK Stockholm, the Swedish club announced.

Andersson, 25, returns to Sweden after two relatively unsuccessful years in Milan and Newcastle.

Terms of the deal was not disclosed.

"I wanted to move to another country not necessary Sweden, but now I will play for a good team in the Champions League," Andersson said.

Swedish champions AIK, who beat Dnipro Transmash of Belarus 2-0 at home in the second qualifying round of the Champions League, hope Andersson will strengthen the team when they play AEK Athens in the third qualifying round next week.

"Andreas will definitely make our team stronger and he will travel with us to Greece but I can't tell you if he will start or not," coach Stuart Baxter said.

Before his years in Italy and England, Andersson scored 48 goals in 69 matches in the Swedish first division for IFK Gothenburg.

Former Russia international Ramiz Mamedov has signed a two-year contract with Dynamo Kiev, a club spokesman said.

The former Spartak Moscow defender, with Krylya Sovetov Samara this season, became the Kiev side's fifth Russian recruit.

France World Cup goalkeeper Fabien Barthez had jewels worth one million francs (\$166,000) stolen when his Coté d'Azur villa was burgled in the early hours of Thursday, French police said.



They said Barthez was asleep when the burglars broke a ground floor window and entered his villa in the French Riviera resort of Cap Martin, two kilometres from Monaco.

Barthez's Monaco team mate Martin Djetou was also the victim of a burglary at his villa in the mountains behind the principality but there were no details of the property stolen.

Hungarian first division club Kispest-Honvéd said on it was informing police that \$350,000 was missing from the price paid by French club Metz two-years-ago for striker Mihály Tóth.

A Kispest committee set up to investigate alleged fraud visited Metz this week and found the French side had paid \$550,000 for Tóth, but Kispest's books accounted for only \$200,000, club chairman László Benko said.

The Hungarian season kicked off on Friday with Kispest beating Haladás Szombathely 2-0.

Swiss first division club Lugano has signed former Naples and Eintracht Frankfurt striker Damir Stojak.

Stojak, 25, a Serb who formerly played for Vojvodina, was transferred to Napoli in Italy in 1998 before joining Frankfurt in Germany.

He made only nine appearances for the German team last season.

Stojak has signed a two-year deal with Lugano.

Barcelona continued their clear out for the new season by selling Spanish international midfielder Albert Celades to Celta Vigo for an undisclosed fee.

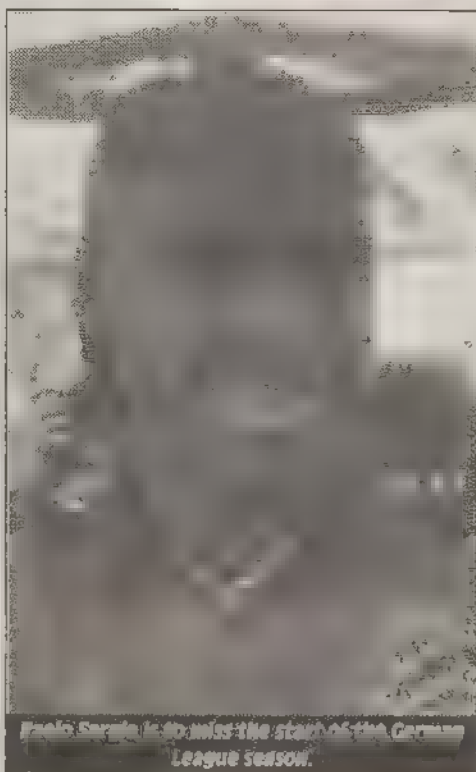
Celades, who had spent five seasons at the Catalan club since joining as an 18-year-old in 1994, found himself surplus to the requirements of coach Louis van Gaal at the end of last season and was told to look for another club.

He has signed a one-year contract with Celta. He will then become a free agent and is widely tipped for a move to Real Madrid.

Barcelona have off-loaded a total of seven players since the end of last season.

Two more long-serving Barca men, defender Miguel Angel Nadal and midfielder Roger Garcia, are also on the unwanted list and are expected to leave before the new season starts on August 22.

Sergio to miss start of season



German champions Bayern Munich will have to start the new season without its major signing Paulo Sergio.

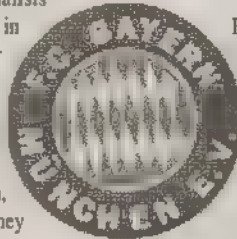
Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said the 30-year-old

Brazilian midfielder, who joined from AS Roma for 12 million marks (\$6.60 million), underwent groin surgery and would be unavailable when Bayern play Hamburg SV in their opening match, this weekend, on August 14.

Last season's European Cup finalists were already without three players in goalkeeper Oliver Kahn, playmaker Stefan Effenberg and defender Samuel Kuffour, all injured.

There is good news for Bayern as well as midfielder Mario Basler, who had been sidelined by back pain, should make his comeback when they play Eintracht Frankfurt in a warm-up game on Thursday.

French defender Bixente Lizarazu and Brazilian striker Elber, who missed the previous season's last stretch because of serious knee injuries, have both resumed training and should soon be back in action.



Berlin's Olympic stadium will be fitted with individual seating in time for local club Hertha to play its Champions League qualifier against Anorthosis Famagusta this week.

"The stadium will have seats in time," Berlin mayor Eberhard Diepgen told Berlin radio. "The match on August 11 will take place."

Hertha were urged by UEFA to comply with regulations if they wanted to play home European Cup matches in their stadium.

European soccer's governing body requires individual seats with back rests for top level matches.

Berlin's arena has a capacity of 76,243 but only a small proportion, about 15,000, is individual seating.

The remainder of the stadium, built for the 1936 Olympics, is either bench seating or standing areas.

One club relegated as another is ordered to pay up

The Bulgarian Football Union (BFU) has relegated Metalurg Pernik from the first division for match-fixing, a BFU official said.

"The executive committee of the union decided to relegate Metalurg for violating the principles of fair play," BFU spokesman Nikola Exerov said.

"Two Metalurg matches, one against Litex Lovech and one against Levski Sofia, were fixed."

In these matches Metalurg did not play to win.

Metalurg lost their home games against Levski 3-0 and Litex 2-1 and finished 10th in the table.

But the BFU ordered their relegation and reprieved Shumen who finished 13th in the standings and should have been relegated along with Lokomotiv Plovdiv and Septemvri Sofia.

The decision came after a row between rival tobbies in Metalurg who accused each other of murky dealing and match-fixing.

Rumours of match-fixing and corruption have long marred Bulgarian soccer and a match between CSKA (Sofia) and Levski (Krustendil) was abandoned earlier this year after CSKA refused to come out for the second half after some of its players were reportedly beaten up during the half-time break.

Litex won the championship which ended on May 29 with 76 points. Levski came second with 74.

But the BFU also decided to deduct three points from those totals leaving Litex with 73 points and Levski with 71.

In an interview for the state news agency BTA Metalurg's president Parvan Parvanov said his team was planning a merger with Minyor.

Minyor finished eighth last season and, like Metalurg, play in Pernik. The planned merger must be approved by the BFU.

In another ruling, the BFU gave the go-ahead to a merger between promoted Olimpik Teteven and the amateur club Beroe Stara Zagora.

The new club will be

Olimpik-Beroe Teteven but home games will be played in Stara Zagora.

In another development the BFU approved Litex Lovech changing their name simply to Lovech from the start of the new season.

The team were knocked out of the Champions League after losing a penalty shoot-out to Widzew Lodz in the second qualifying round after the teams finished 5-5 on aggregate.



FIFA has ordered Portugal's Benfica to deliver immediately on a bank guarantee to Norway's Rosenborg Trondheim to honor a transfer agreement for striker Sigurd Rushfeldt.

Thor Gronnerud of the Norwegian Football Association said it had received a copy of FIFA's letter to the Portuguese Football Association.

"FIFA have asked the Portuguese FA to ask Benfica to deliver a bank guarantee immediately," Gronnerud told Reuters. "FIFA wants the clubs to complete their agreement."

Rushfeldt, Norway's top scorer in the 1997 and 1998 seasons, moved to Benfica in early July.

But Norwegian champions Rosenborg, who had received about 6.0 million crowns (\$778,900) from Benfica, ordered Rushfeldt back to Norway after the

Portuguese club failed to deliver a bank guarantee for an additional 24 million crowns (\$3.1 million).

Benfica complained to FIFA over Rushfeldt's recall, demanding he be allowed to return immediately to their summer training camp in Germany.

Scottish Premier League club Dundee United completed the capture of Israeli international Jan Telesnikov, subject to him obtaining a work permit.

The 27-year-old midfielder, who has 13 international caps, agreed a four-year deal at Tannadice after joining from

Beitar Jerusalem for an undisclosed fee understood to be around 450,000 pounds (680,000 dollars).

"I feel the style and pace of the game in Scotland will suit me and I'm really looking forward to it — I felt I had gone as far as I could go as a player in Israel," said Telesnikov.

An Israel Football Association (IFA) disciplinary court has docked Maccabi Tel Aviv four league points with another four suspended and fined the club 100,000 shekels (\$23,900) for doping offenses.

Maccabi, which finished second in the league to Hapoel Haifa last season, is one of Israel's two representatives in this season's UEFA Cup.

The IFA launched a two-month inquiry involving the club, its former fitness trainer and a player after midfielder Kfir Edri, 22, tested positive for the stimulant ephedrine following the club's match at Hapoel Haifa in May.

The disciplinary court barred Edri, who said he was unaware of taking a banned substance, for six matches.

Guy Azuri, a former Maccabi fitness trainer, has been banned for two years. The pair can only appeal after serving half their punishments.

The new domestic season starts on Aug. 14, with Maccabi on minus four. The club said it will appeal.

Maccabi's first UEFA opponent is Kaunas of Lithuania with a match in the qualifying round. The clubs meet in Israel in the first leg on August 12.

Hughes stays on at Wales

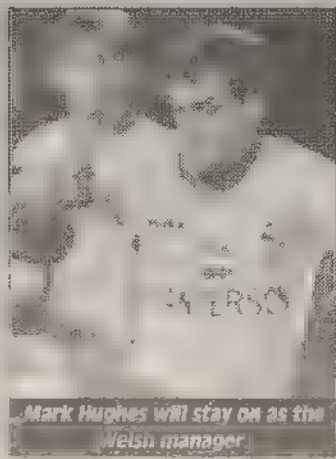
Mark Hughes will continue as caretaker manager of the Welsh national soccer team for two more matches, the Welsh Football Association (FAW) announced.

The veteran striker, who had shared the caretaker duties with former goalkeeper Neville Southall since the resignation of Bobby Gould in June, will look after the team for the forthcoming Euro 2000 qualifiers against Switzerland and Belarus.

There had been speculation that Terry Venables would take over the job on a part

but the FAW said it was unable to

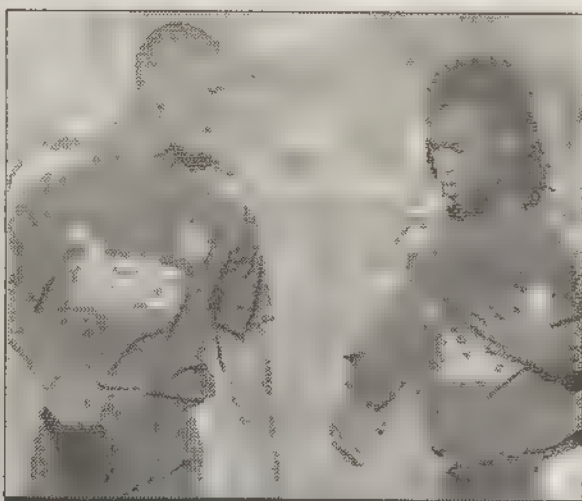
with the former England boss.



Mark Hughes will stay on as the Welsh manager.

EUROPE

NEW BOY ANELKA TO REPLACE SEEDORF?



Nicolas Anelka (l) and Clarence Seedorf (r) at training in Madrid. Could Anelka's arrival spell the end for Seedorf?

While Real Madrid was welcoming its most expensive signing on Thursday, another big name could be leaving the Spanish club.

Nicolas Anelka, the \$35.63 million buy from Arsenal, was due to be presented as a Real Madrid player after his transfer was finally agreed in London.

But Real looked set to recoup a large chunk of that money as Clarence Seedorf — one of the club's most bankable names — appeared ready to announce his departure — even though the club have publicly stated it does not want him to go.

"There's no point in me being here while John Toshack is the coach," Seedorf was quoted as saying by AS newspaper.

Toshack, who took over from Guus Hiddink as Real coach midway through last season, relegated Seedorf to the substitutes' bench for recent friendlies against Inter Milan and Fenerbahce.

Seedorf was also quoted as saying: "They're treating me like a fool. I'm young and make noise. They think of me as a rebellious and comical character. I've had enough of that label. They just don't take me seriously."

Seedorf was expected to meet Real officials later on

Thursday to discuss a way out of the situation, although no one at Real was available to confirm that meetings with the player and his father — who acts as his agent — were scheduled.

Roma, Lazio and Inter Milan have all expressed an interest in the player — valued at around \$25.92 million — with Roma now thought to be his most likely destination.

The Dutch international, who joined Real for \$4.21 million three years ago, endured a difficult season at the club last term as he was involved in a spate of disputes both on and off the pitch.

He appeared set to leave the club at the start of the northern summer, with Lazio several times asking after the services of the busy midfielder.

Seedorf continually pledged his future to Real Madrid, however, eventually prompting club president Lorenzo Sanz to publicly praise his loyalty to the white shirt.

But the Dutchman was involved in more trouble during Real's pre-season, as Toshack opted instead for the rangy talents of Steve McManaman on the right flank.

He was reportedly involved in two minor disciplinary problems, which could prove to be the last straw for both the player and the club.

LOVE IS SO HARD ON THE KNEES, SAYS DOCTORS

According to research by doctors, professional soccer players can literally go weak in the knees if they have too much unprotected sex.

Research carried out among 10 sportsmen, six of whom were soccer players, indicated that persistent knee injuries were often a form of arthritis caused by a sexually-transmitted bacteria, the New Scientist magazine reported.

Sexually-acquired reactive arthritis, or SARA, was found to be responsible for typical symptoms such as swollen or sore knees in eight of the 10 cases examined.

Five of the sportsmen said they had had more than 11 sexual partners, a level of promiscuity only reached by one in four British males in their 20s on average.

"The level of promiscuity among these sportsmen calls for concern. Footballers appear to be the greatest culprits," wrote Dr. Paul Oyodo, the author of the research carried out at the Queen Mary and Westfield College in London.

"They are very rich and have a lot of spare time."

Five of the six players involved in the research were Premiership players, though they were not identified.

John King, a consultant orthopedic surgeon at the London Independent Hospital, said.

"Doctors should be aware this can happen. The treatment is very different. If it is an injury it may need surgery but if it is SARA, it just needs aspiration and an antibiotic treatment."

English Football Association spokesman Steve Double was non-plussed by the claims.

"Some things we can and can't control, and I think this comes into the latter category," he said.



Davor Suker and Croatia will face Yugoslavia on August 18.

Japan's Grampus Eight club have refused to release Yugoslav captain Dragan Stokovic for a Euro 2000 qualifier against Croatia on August 18, Tanjug news agency reported on Wednesday.

It quoted Yugoslav Football Association Secretary Branko Bulatovic as saying the Nagoya club would not make the veteran midfielder available for the match in Belgrade because it needed him for a vital Japanese league fixture.

"We have been unable to reach agreement with Stokovic's club. They insisted that he must stay in Japan but promised to release him a week in advance for Yugoslavia's other European championship qualifiers," Bulatovic told reporters.

Bulatovic listed 17 overseas-based players to be called up by coach Vujadin Boskov in a provisional 24-man squad and said the remaining seven, playing in the Yugoslav league, would be named on August 13.

Goalkeeper: Ivica Kralj (PSV Eindhoven)

Defenders: Slobodan Komljenovic (Kaiserslautern), Miroslav Djukic (Valencia), Goran Djorovic (Celta Vigo), Nisa Saveljic (Girondins Bordeaux), Zoran Mirkovic (Juventus), Simsa Mihajlovic (Lazio), Drazen Bolic (Salernitana)

Midfielders: Dejan Savicevic (Rapid Vienna), Slavisa Jokanovic (Deportivo La Coruna), Jovan Stankovic (Real Mallorca), Dejan Stankovic (Lazio), Albert Nadj (Oviedo), Ljubinko Drulovic (Porto)

Forwards: Predrag Mijatovic (Fiorentina), Savo Milosevic (Real Zaragoza), Darko Kovacevic (Juventus)



CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

INTERTOTO RESULTS

Juventus moved easily into the final round of the Intertoto Cup on Wednesday with Alessandro del Piero scoring on his comeback after a nine-month injury layoff in a 5-1 demolition of Rostselmash Rostov of Russia.

Filippo Inzaghi scored a hat-trick and Alessio Tacchinardi added the other as the former European champions swept into the final stages 9-1 on aggregate. They now meet Rennes after the French side drew 2-2 with Austria Vienna to go through 4-2 on aggregate.

West Ham United of England also progressed with a 1-0 win at SC Heerenveen in the Netherlands to go through 2-0 on aggregate.

New signing from Derby County, Paulo Wanchope

Half the teams seeded for the second qualifying round of the Champions League crashed out of the competition on Wednesday as some of Europe's smaller clubs enjoyed upset victories.

The fallen, while not exactly giants of the European game, include teams who all expected to reach the third round of the competition where defeat at least guarantees the consolation of a UEFA Cup place.

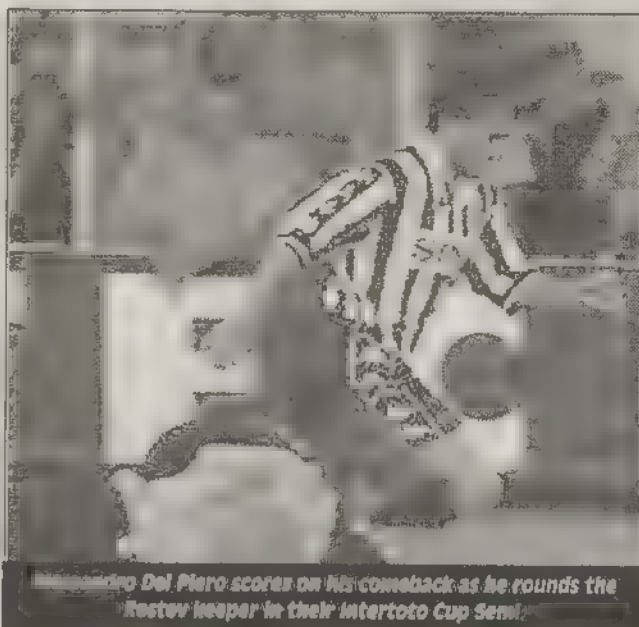
But Besiktas (Turkey), CSKA Moscow (Russia), Rapid Bucharest (Romania), Dynamo Tbilisi (Georgia), Genk (Belgium), Slovan Bratislava (Slovakia) and NK Rijeka (Croatia) were all humbled by unseeded teams.

One of the biggest upsets came in Latvia where Skonto Riga secured themselves a third qualifying round tie against Chelsea of England after a comeback 2-1 second leg win over Rapid Bucharest for a 5-4 aggregate victory.

Rapid was winning 1-0 with 13 minutes to go and looked set to qualify before late goals from Juris Lazans (77) and Andrejs Rubins (87) gave the Latvians victory.

Old European campaigners Slovan Bratislava also expected to overturn their 2-1 first leg defeat against Anorthosis Famagusta of Cyprus but instead fell even further behind when Michael Obiku scored for Famagusta after 58 minutes.

Milan Timko replied for the home team two minutes later but the Cypriots held on for a 3-2 aggregate win and a third qualifying round tie against



scored the only goal after 25 minutes and the Hammers now play Metz who won 2-1 at Polonia Warsaw for a 6-2 aggregate win.

The third "final" will be between 1983 European champions Hamburg SV and Montpellier, after the French side stopped the chance of an all-German clash with a victory over MSV Duisburg.

Montpellier won 3-0 on Wednesday for a 4-1 aggregate success.

Hamburg trounced Trabzonspor of Turkey 4-1 for a 6-3 aggregate.

The first legs of the finals will be on August 10 with the return legs on August 24. The three winners will go through to the first round of the UEFA Cup.

Hertha Berlin.

Belgian champions Genk also crashed out despite a gallant comeback against Maribor Teatonic of Slovenia. Chasing a seemingly lost cause after losing the first leg 5-1, Genk won 3-0 on Wednesday, but Maribor qualified 5-4 on aggregate and now faces Olympique Lyon of France.

Dynamo Tbilisi of Georgia, winners of the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1981, were also eliminated after a last-minute goal from Serghei Epureanu wrapped up a 2-0 win for Zimbru Chisinau of Moldova and a 3-2 aggregate victory. Zimbru now face former European champions PSV Eindhoven in the next round.

FRANZ VOTED AS THE BEST EVER

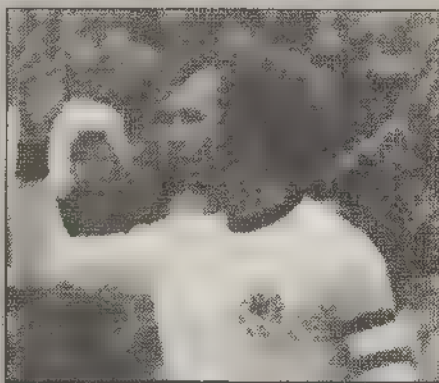
Former national team captain Franz Beckenbauer was Sunday named German "Player of the Century" in a poll of fans.

The current president of Bayern Munich, who led Germany to victory in the World Cup in 1974, was given the award by viewers of television network ARD and readers of football magazine Kicker.

Beckenbauer, now 53, was also named in a German "Team of the Century."

The team selected by the public is:

Sepp Maier; Franz Beckenbauer, Berti Vogts, Jurgen Kohler; Lothar Matthaus, Gunter Netzer, Fritz Walter, Matthias Sammer, Uwe Seeler; Gerd Muller, Jurgen Klinsmann.



Franz Beckenbauer...the fans have voted him the German player of the century.

EUROPE

IN BRIEF

R Real Madrid coach John Toshack says Nicolas Anelka has arrived at the club out of shape and has given him a special training regimen to get fit, Spanish media reported.

The world's second-most expensive player worked at a Real Madrid training session, his first day of training at the seven-time European champions, undergoing hard fitness sessions in the morning and evening.

"We are going to go slowly with Anelka," Toshack was quoted as saying in the Spanish sports daily Marca.

"He has gone some time without training and he needs time to get himself together. We want him in the best possible shape for the start of the season."

"We have set up a special training program for him before he can train with the rest of the squad," Toshack commented in another newspaper.

The Spanish first division starts Aug. 21 and Real's visit to Mallorca is the highlight of the opening round.

Anelka did not play in a friendly against Red Star Belgrade in La Linea on Saturday night and the coach has given no indication when Anelka might make his debut for the club.

Real has four more preseason friendlies scheduled.

The Spanish media has been speculating for several days about whether Anelka might become soccer's most expensive substitute if he did not win the battle for a starting role with Spanish international striker Fernando Morientes.

Toshack suggested a place might be found for both men.

"No one is guaranteed a position in the first 11 but Anelka and Morientes are compatible," Toshack told Spanish reporters.

"Sometimes both will play and sometimes just one because a team that wants to win trophies needs more than just one striker," he added.

Austria's Klaus Rohseano, who suffered a stroke at a national squad training camp on July 24, was discharged from the hospital on Friday.

The 29-year-old LASK Linz midfielder will recover fully but must take a three-month break from sport.

Germany captain Oliver Bierhoff believes his team still is a force despite its poor showing at the Confederations Cup.

"I am convinced that with the team we've got at the moment, we will qualify for the (2000) European championship," he was quoted as saying by German daily Die Welt in an interview.

Bierhoff, who missed the trip to Mexico because he was involved in AC Milan's pre-season build up, added: "There is a general feeling abroad that German football is going through a crisis."

"(Fiorentina's Joerg) Heinrich and me are the only two Germans to play in top Italian clubs. Before, you had 10, 11 Germans playing in Italy."

"When you look at the level of the Bundesliga, you see that Germany no longer belongs to the absolute top level."

But we should not be ashamed of ourselves. Italy had a goal-less draw with Belarus, world champions France are not doing that well and England have problems too."

"We are not that much worse than everybody else."

Germany crashed 4-0 to Brazil and 2-0 to the United States in Mexico.

But the defending champions lead European qualifying group three with 12 points from five matches.



PSG AND NANTES STAY UNDEFEATED AT TOP

Nantes defeated Saint-Etienne 2-0 on the road to take the French league championship lead after only two matches of the long season.

Striker Olivier Monterrubio put the French Cup holders in front in the 36th minute and midfielder Antoine Sibierski tucked away the second in injury time.

Nantes is two points ahead of Olympique Marseille, held 0-0 at Le Havre on Thursday.

Monaco, one of the favorites for the title, went down 1-0 at RC Lens and has only one point from two matches.

Paris St-Germain, everyone's favourite whipping boys last season, rode their luck to win 3-1 at Rennes on Saturday, chalking up their second victory of the new season.

Rennes were extremely unlucky to have a superb equaliser by Shabani Nonda disallowed when they were 2-1 down, then succumbed to the sucker punch of Laurent Robert's second goal of the match in the closing minutes.

"I'm disappointed. It was a harsh score, we deserved a draw," said Rennes coach Paul Le Guen, who made his name as an accomplished centre back playing for PSG.

PSG and Nantes, 2-0 winners at promoted Saint-Etienne on Friday, are the only teams on maximum points after two matches.

Defending champions Girondins Bordeaux had to come from behind for the second successive match, this time only managing a 2-2 draw at Montpellier after winning 3-2 at home to Bastia last weekend.

In the rounds only other game, Metz beat 10-man AJ Auxerre 3-0 at home with goals by Frederic Meyrieu, Christophe Bastien and Louis Saha.

Robert, PSG's new signing from Montpellier, put the Parisians ahead in the 13th minute when he drove home a low shot from the left after a fine cross from deep on the right by Mikael Madar.

Midfielder Lamine Diatta equalised on the half hour when he headed a corner past goalkeeper Bernard Lama.

Former Everton striker Madar restored PSG's lead in the 51st minute with a penalty, which was harshly awarded against Rennes when striker Bruno



Rodriguez was judged to have had his shirt pulled.

Madar put the ball twice past goalkeeper Gregory Malicki, having to take the penalty a second time because of encroachment by a team mate.

Nonda thought he had blasted in a superb equaliser 10 minutes from time only for the referee to call play back because he had crossed in the striker's favour.

Robert sealed the result when he broke away on the left to score a goal that was almost a carbon copy of his first.

France's Sylvain Wiltord, top scorer in the first division last season, scored Bordeaux's equaliser at Montpellier on the hour from a superb through ball by fellow striker Lilian Laslandes.

Montpellier were two goals up inside 24 minutes with Yugoslav defender Nenda Dzodic and former Nantes and PSG striker Patrice Loko scoring in the space of five minutes.

Midfielder Johan Micoud brilliantly glanced a

header home from a corner from Stephane Ziani in the 39th minute to put Bordeaux back in the match.

Auxerre had Polish defender Tomasz Klos sent off in the 67th minute at Metz and were lucky to escape a heavier defeat when the home team's captain Sylvain Kastendeuch hit a 79th minute penalty wide.

Olympique Marseille have been fined 10,000 francs (\$1,600) for crowd trouble at their first match of the season, a 3-0 home win over Sedan.

Kick off was delayed six minutes because fans at Marseille's notorious Velodrome ground threw objects onto the pitch.

Marseille, never far from controversy, were fined twice last season for crowd trouble.

Their midfielder Stephane Dalmat and his former RC Lens team mate Daniel Moreira were both suspended for two matches for boycotting an under-21 international tournament in Morocco in May for which they had been picked by France.

The pair stayed in France to celebrate Lens' victory in the French League Cup final. They have already served the suspension during the Toulon under-21 tournament in June.

Marseille's Argentine defender Eduardo Berizzo will miss their third league match at home to Saint-Etienne on August 15 after being sent off in the 0-0 draw at Le Havre on Thursday night.

Berizzo and Le Havre striker Cyrille Pouget, sent off with the Argentine, will learn the length of their suspensions next week.

FRENCH LEAGUE STANDINGS					
	P	L	F	A	Pts
Paris St-Germain					
Nantes					
Olympique Marseille 2					
Metz	2	1	0	3	0
Girondins Bordeaux 2					
Montpellier					
Bastia					
Olympique Lyon					
RC Lens					
Sedan					
AJ Auxerre					
Strasbourg					
Monaco					
Le Havre					
Saint-Etienne					
Rennes					
Troyes					
Nancy					

GENK START BELGIAN TITLE DEFENCE WITH SIX ALL DRAW

Last season's Belgian champions Racing Genk made an extraordinary start to their title defence on Saturday as they fought out a 6-6 draw at Westerlo in a game featuring five penalties and four red cards.

Fresh from the Champions League exit earlier in the week when a 3-0 win still saw them go out 5-4 on aggregate to Maribor of Slovenia, new Genk manager Jos Heyligen must have been hoping for a quieter time at unfancied Westerlo.

But in an amazing game of ebbing fortunes, the champions took the lead no fewer than four times, fell 4-2 behind, fought back to 6-5 ahead, only to

have victory snatched from them in the dying moments.

Genk favourite Branko Strupar claimed a hat-trick of penalties while Westerlo's Toni Brogno scored four, including two from the spot.

Both sides ended the game with nine men as Genk's Wilfried Debroek and Chris Van Geem, together with Westerlo's Marc Schaessens and Benoit Thans received their marching orders.

Elsewhere, no-one was able to match the performance of Ghent, who kicked off the season in style on Friday, with a 5-1 demolition of newly-promoted Geel.

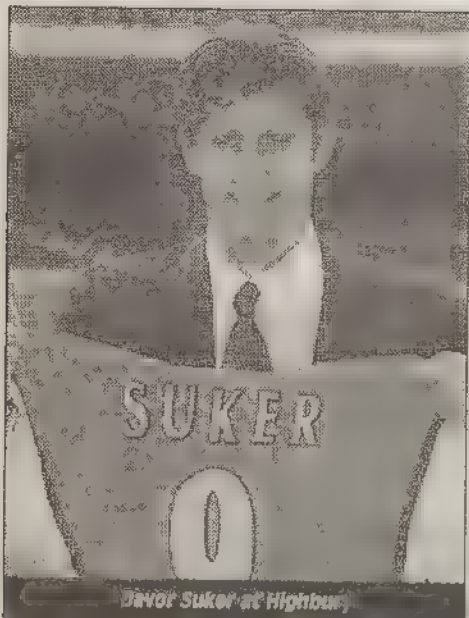
But there were first week victories for Standard Liege, Aalst, Lommel and Lierse, as well as Charleroi, who welcomed back returning hero Philippe Albert from England's Newcastle United.

BELGIAN LEAGUE RESULTS

Westerlo	6	Genk	6
Standard Liege	2	Mechelen	1
Charleroi	2	Harelbeke	1
Lommel	1	Lokeren	0
Lierse	3	Germinal Beerschot	1
Beveren	0	Eendracht Aalst	2

UK

ANELKA HEADS OUT AS SUKER AND HENRY COME IN



Davor Suker at Highbury

The nightmare for Arsenal has finally come to an end as disgruntled striker Nicolas Anelka signed a seven year contract in a 33 million-dollar transfer deal with Real Madrid.

"A contract between the two clubs will be signed on Wednesday in London," said the French international's agent, Marc Rogers.

On Thursday, the 20-year-old underwent a routine medical before committing his future to the Spanish first division club.

The deal wraps up a tortured tale that first began back in May when Marseille revealed that Anelka was constantly phoning them over a possible move to France.

Anelka had refused to return to Arsenal for pre-season training and was threatening legal action in order to terminate his contract if Arsenal did not allow him to join the club of his choice.

Real Madrid were the 20-year-old's first choice but Arsenal pulled the plug on the deal and asked world body FIFA to investigate whether Real had made an illegal approach to Anelka.

Anelka then agreed terms with Italian club Lazio but they failed to meet Arsenal's asking price.

"It is the best thing for everybody that it is all over," said Anelka's exasperated compatriot, said Wenger.

Arsenal vice-chairman David Dein later described the drawn out process as long and unpleasant.

"We've got to get on with our lives," he added.

Arsenal signed Croatia striker Davor Suker, top scorer at the 1998 World Cup, from Real Madrid as France's Nicolas Anelka headed in the opposite direction for around seven times as much.

The English Premier League runners-up, who reportedly paid \$5.67 million for the Croat, introduced their signing at a news conference.

"During the World Cup he was outstanding for me, it was a demonstration of how a striker should play because everything he did was intelligent," said Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger, who defined Suker as a "real team player."

Suker, who signed a four-year deal, was released by the Spanish giants in May after falling out with coach John Toshack.

Suker said he had talks with a number of top European clubs but wanted to play in the premier league, which he followed on television in Spain.

"I was very impressed with the atmosphere during Euro 96 and the way the English fans loved the game. I will work hard and play well because I want to score many goals," he said.

Wenger said Suker had taken the rare step of accepting a pay cut to join Arsenal, who will play in the

Champions League this season.

Suker has been in Spain since 1991, first with Seville and then the last three years with Real. He said he was not the only Real player to fall out with Toshack but was not thinking about those problems any more.

"The Davor deal was independent from the Anelka deal," Wenger said.

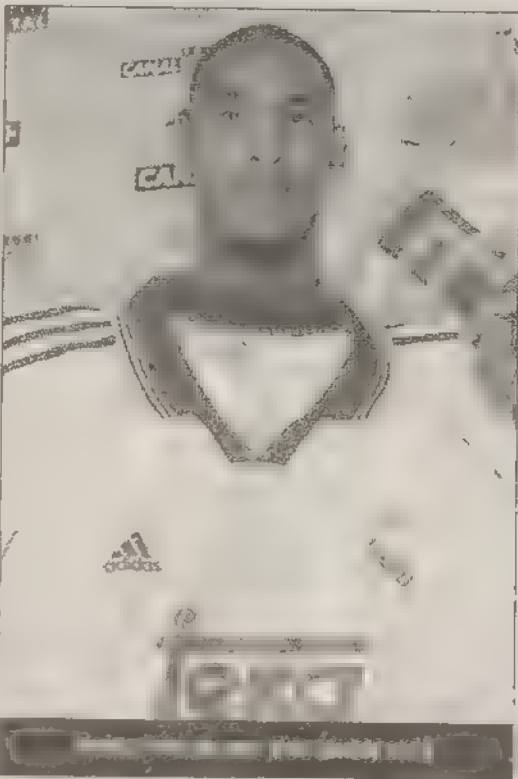
"The Anelka story for us is over," he said.

And then the following day, Arsenal improved their playing stocks even more with the purchase of yet another Frenchman at the club.

Arsenal landed its second international striker in two days as Frenchman Thierry Henry moved to the club for a reported club-record transfer fee of \$18 million.

Juventus sold the French international to Arsenal just a day after the Gunners wrapped up the transfer of Croat Davor Suker from Real Madrid for a reported US\$5.6 million.

"Thierry Henry is a valuable addition to our squad,"



Thierry Henry upon his arrival at Arsenal

said Arsenal Coach Arsene Wenger as the 21-year-old Henry arrived from Juventus' training camp for a hastily-called news conference at Arsenal's north London ground.

"He is a young international striker who will be a great asset to Arsenal football club. He has good experience of both club and international football and will considerably strengthen our firepower."

Wenger described the contract with Henry as "long-term," and, as usual, the club would not confirm the reported purchase price.

The two internationals move in to fill the void created by the loss of French forward Nicolas Anelka, who moved to Spain's Real Madrid for a reported US\$35.5 million.

The addition of Henry gives Arsenal four world-class strikers in Suker, Nwanku Kanu and Dutch international Dennis Bergkamp. Bergkamp was the club's previous biggest outlay when he was bought several years ago for about US\$12 million.

Henry has long been the target of Wenger, who began to pursue him once it was obvious Anelka would not return to the north London side.

Wenger said Henry was more extroverted than Anelka and was a team player capable of working either as a striker or on either wing.

"He has a good spirit and a good mentality for a young player and he gives you a lot of options," Wenger said.

"He can play wide or in the center and makes anything possible when he has the ball."

"Thierry has pace, power and great dribbling. I would like to move him into the center either as the second striker or the main target man."

FERGUSON MAKES BRIBERY CLAIMS

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson says in a book due out later this week that he was twice a target of bribes and also a victim of bigotry.

Ferguson, who steered United to the Premier League and FA Cup titles and the European Champions Cup last season, makes the claims in his autobiography "Managing My Life."

In the book, Ferguson said he was offered a 40,000-pound (US\$64,400) bribe by Russian agent Grigory Essaulenko over the transfer to Everton of Andrei Kanchelskis in 1995.

Essaulenko offered him a gift which, when he opened it, contained bundles of cash -- an inducement to release Kanchelskis.

Ferguson said he returned the "unwanted gift" to Old Trafford and made club officials aware of it before the money was returned to Essaulenko.

The same agent, Ferguson alleged, also threatened United chairman Martin Edwards before the transfer eventually went through.

He said he was also told by an Italian agent interested in taking Ryan Giggs to the Serie A that he and his three sons would "never have to work" if he could arrange Giggs' transfer.

The English FA has said it would investigate the claims of impropriety by the agents.

Ferguson, who was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II last month for his service to soccer, said that he was victimized by officials at Glasgow Rangers when he went there as a player because he married a Roman Catholic.

Sectarianism has always polarized soccer supporters in Glasgow, where Protestants traditionally support Rangers and Roman Catholics support Old Firm rival Celtic.

The 57-year-old Scot launched a scathing attack on former Rangers official Willie Allison, who he described as a "dangerous and despicable" sectarian.

"What I sensed coming from Willie Allison, who was in charge of Rangers' PR and who had an alarming influence on the club's elderly chairman John Lawrence, was nothing less than poisonous hostility," Ferguson said.

"Allison was a religious bigot of the deepest dye."

"I had a Protestant upbringing, but my wife Cathy is Catholic and so were my mother's family."

Ferguson also writes about his star midfielder David Beckham. Beckham was made into the villain when he was sent off against Argentina in the 1998 World Cup. But his recent marriage to Victoria Adams of the pop group the Spice Girls, and Manchester United's success last season has converted him into a hero in the press.



Dreams of travelling to space for Schwarz have been dashed by Sunderland

Swedish soccer player Stefan Schwarz has been told by new club Sunderland to forget his dream of flying into space and concentrate on the earthly matter of winning matches.

The English First Division champions inserted a clause into his contract forcing Schwarz to cash in his ticket for one of the first commercial passenger flights into space, due for lift-off in 2002.

"It now means Stefan can't turn round and ask for time off to travel to the moon," the club's chief execu-

SPACEMAN SCHWARTZ MISSION ABORTED BY CLUB

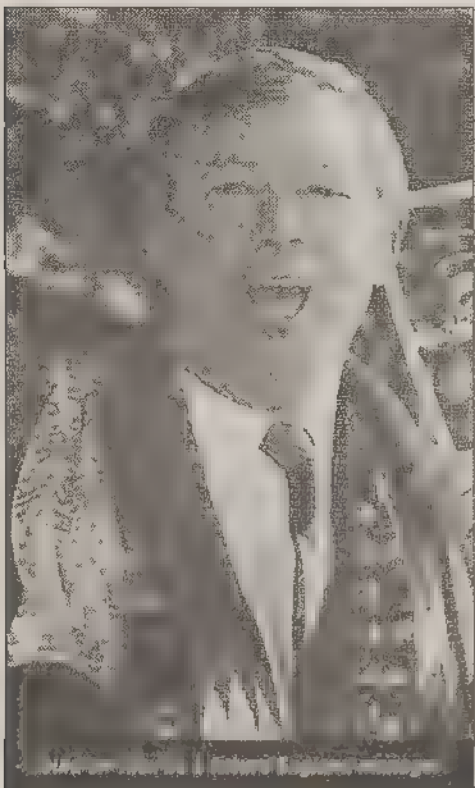
tive John Fickling was quoted as saying by the top-selling Sun newspaper on Tuesday.

"We were chatting over the final details of the player's insurance policy when this cropped up. It is normal for the club to protect its interests when we've players with dangerous hobbies."

Midfielder Schwarz, 30, recently signed for Sunderland from Spanish side Valencia for four million pounds (\$6.46 million).

UK

A SCOTSMAN TO LEAD ENGLAND IN 2002?



Sir Alex Ferguson will become the prime candidate to manage England when his current contract ends and he quits his role as manager of Manchester United in 2002.

This time the Football Association are sure they

will find a willing participant in their audacious move because Ferguson believes the England job is almost unique in its ability to stimulate his enthusiasm after leaving Old Trafford.

Shrewd judges at Lancaster Gate do not foresee Kevin Keegan bucking the increasing trend of international managers to opt out after enduring the pressure of two major tournaments.

Ferguson is understood to have told those close to him that he is wary of staying at United in an overseeing role and that he believes he has the ability to make England a dominant side again.

FA powerbrokers, including David Davies, were known to have sounded out Ferguson about succeeding Glenn Hoddle only to find that their timing could not have been worse.

The Scot shares the FA's view that it is no longer crucial to have an Englishman managing the international side but, at the time of Hoddle's resignation, Ferguson had a testimonial year, a new contract and the Champions League Final looming in his life.

Now he has concluded the most lucrative and sat-

isfying contract of his career at Old Trafford and can watch England's progress from afar — but he is aware that World Cup 2002 will probably be a poisoned chalice for the managers of all European sides.

Climatic and time differences will be debilitating in Japan and South Korea but, from 2002 onwards, England face a European Championship schedule which will see the finals held in Spain two years later and then, potentially, the prospect of jousting for football's greatest prize on home turf although that has yet to be decided.

At the time of Keegan's initial, part-time appointment to the England job, one of the FA's most powerful figures said, "People may criticise the appointment but would Alex Ferguson agree to manage England at the moment?"

"The answer is 'No' which means that possibly the foremost tactical and most successful coach in

the country is not available to us - now."

The United boss was marked down, there and then, as a viable candidate for England's bid to win the World Cup in 2006, when freed from club management.

He will be 59 when he relinquishes control at Old Trafford and, by then, might have added the title of World champions to the European Cup his team won in May.

Ferguson recently conceded that nothing could compare with that success — apart from managing a World Cup-winning side.

He said, "The feeling I get here is that they would not want a Sir Matt Busby situation so nobody has said anything about me staying."

Ferguson had brief experience of international management at Mexico '86 with Scotland when he stood in after the death of Jock Stein.



INCE IN TROUBLE OVER COMMENTS

England midfielder Paul Ince is facing a Football Association probe after he was quoted in a Sunday newspaper heavily criticizing his former manager at Liverpool, Gerard Houllier.

Former Liverpool captain Ince, who joined Middlesbrough for 1 million pounds (1.5 million dollars), was quoted in the News of World saying Houllier and his assistant Phil Thompson should be sacked because "they are two-faced and treat people like dirt".

In a double page interview, Ince said he was furious at the way Frenchman Houllier told him he was no longer needed at the club.

"It's disgraceful the way Houllier has treated me and other players at the club," the 31-year-old was quoted as saying.

"People should know what he is really like. I've played under some great managers like Alex Ferguson, Terry Venables, Glenn Hoddle and Roy Hodgson — they all treat their players with respect.

"But Houllier doesn't know what the word means. He comes from France and I can't even believe he's managed a team before because he certainly doesn't seem to know how to."

Ince added: "For someone who has been at the club two minutes to turn round and say you're not wanted here and to try and ruin my career... well, I just couldn't get my head round it."

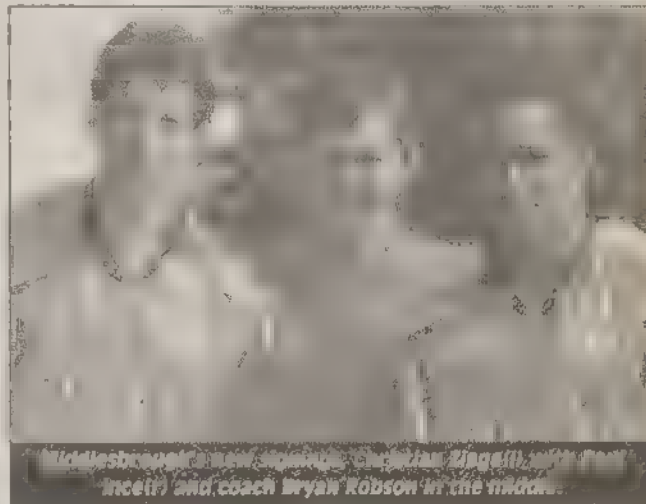
"I just wanted to punch Houllier in the face. And if I was younger, I would have. He would have deserved it."

If Ince stands by his reported comments, he seems certain to face a disrepute charge and FA spokesman Steve Double confirmed the ruling

body would be investigating.

"Graham Bean, the FA's compliance officer, will be writing to Paul to get his observations," Double said.

Houllier won support from the League Managers' Association, whose chief executive John Barnwell said: "If it was a manager saying those things, he'd be brought up for bringing the game into disrepute."



Middlesbrough's new captain, Paul Ince, with former Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier.

Manchester United cruised to a 9-0 victory over Omagh in a friendly to raise money for the bomb victims' appeal.

With Roy Keane back making his first appearance for Sir Alex Ferguson's Treble winners since hobbling off in the FA Cup Final against Newcastle last May with a groin injury, United were in rampant mood.

Omagh, fresh from a 7-0 drubbing by Chelsea, managed to hold out for just 20 seconds of the match.

Teddy Sheringham proved that United were not going to go easy on the part-timers as he netted the game's opening goal.

Defender Denis Irwin, a Republic of Ireland international, made it two 10 minutes later, to the delight of the 7,000 crowd — ten times the club's average attendance in the League.



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STIMAC DEAL STALLS

Igor Stimac's new contract at Derby that will keep him at the club until 2001 has hit a stumbling block over the player's wage demands.

The Croatian defender, who made his first appearance since injury at Leeds in March when he played an hour in Derby's 3-0 win at Nuneaton, was expected to end the confusion surrounding his future 24 hours later by agreeing to add another year to the one left on his current terms.

However, Online can now reveal the 31-year-old is looking for a salary increase, which would net him £350,000 a season rather than the present £300,000 he presently earns at Pride Park.

But after a round of talks with the board, the international ace is still yet to put pen to paper and seal a two-year deal which would effectively be the last of career.

It is just the latest twist in a long-running saga surrounding the extrovert from Zagreb. He had been due to move to Italian club Verona but it collapsed when Derby demanded a fee.

Stimac explained: "I had agreed terms on a three-year deal and was very happy. But there was a misunderstanding because Verona believed I was out of contract."

"I would have obviously preferred it if Derby were not asking a fee. It would have shown goodwill after my four years here. Some other Italian clubs were interested but not when they found out I would cost £500,000 or £1m."

And West Ham almost secured his services early last week only for Derby to up the price from £500,000 to £1million and end the Hammers' interest.

Manager Jim Smith is reluctant to sell him on to another top flight club from these shores.

Smith has since expressed his desire for the tough centre-back to stay.

The manager said before the friendly on Tuesday: "Igor is with us and training well. He was disappointed that I put him on the list but he has a year left on his contract and I'm happy to have him on board."

"If Igor is going to play for us, nothing would give me a bigger thrill."

After the game, Stimac said: "It is good to be



Igor Stimac... a new deal with Derby all rests on how large his wages will be.

involved again. I have had ten days' training and after another ten, I should be really ready."

Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, plucked from obscurity two years ago, has left Leeds United for Atletico Madrid for a fee of 12 million pounds, the latest move in a flurry of Premiership transfer activity.

The 27-year-old Dutchman had threatened to go on strike unless Leeds met his wage demands. Only last week, the club turned down a reported 10.5 million pound bid from Atletico but have now accepted a revised offer from the Spanish club, subject to the player passing the medical.

It is not often that a Premiership return of just six goals is enough to merit a price tag of £10 million.

But after finally signing a new £20,000-a-week contract at Leicester City, England striker Emile Heskey knows it's time to show everybody what all the fuss has been about.

Still only 21, Heskey has been courted by Liverpool, Arsenal, Tottenham and Leeds this summer, only to frustrate all of them by finally extending his current contract at Filbert Street by another year to the summer of 2001.

CLUB PREVIEW

ARSENAL (Last season: 2nd)

Although Nicolas Anelka may have gone and the famous back five may be in the process of being dismantled after a decade of service, Arsenal will again mount a strong challenge for the title with new signings Davor Suker and Thierry Henry adding forward strength to the squad.

ASTON VILLA (6th)

Last November Villa fans were dreaming of the title -- by the end of the season, they failed to even qualify for the Intertoto Cup.

The distraction of Stan Collymore's "depression" didn't help but his departure might help Villa settle although another top six finish looks a big ask.

BRADFORD CITY (Division One: 2nd promoted)

Bradford's return to the top division after a 77 year absence was a remarkable achievement in manager Paul Jewell's first full season in charge. It will be even more remarkable if he keeps them up.

CHELSEA (3rd)

If Chelsea had not thrown away home points late last season they might well have won the league for the first time since their only title in 1955.

With the close-season additions of French World Cup skipper Didier Deschamps and Chris Sutton joining Gianluca Vialli's already formidable line-up, Chelsea will again push Manchester United and Arsenal all the way.

COVENTRY CITY (15th)

Coventry has prepared for its 33rd successive season in the top division by adding Moroccans Mustapha Hadji and Youssef Chippo to the midfield -- but it has allowed influential Dutchman George Boateng to follow Dion Dublin down the road to Villa Park.

Probably too good to go down -- but not quite good enough to finish in the top 10.

DERBY COUNTY (8th)

Derby have steadily improved since arriving in the premier league in 1996 finishing 12th, ninth and eighth but unless it is more potent in attack than last season -- 40 goals in 38 league matches -- the climb may stall.

EVERTON (14th)

Once, Everton was regarded as one of England's Big Five -- these days it is fortunate still to be included in the Top 20.

Apart from 1996 when it finished sixth, Everton has finished 17th, 15th, 15th, 17th and 14th in the last six seasons. Manager Walter Smith is still restrained by financial worries and another tough season beckons.

LEEDS UNITED (4th)

David O'Leary's young team is being widely spoken of as serious title contenders in two or three seasons' time -- while cup success could come even sooner.

Its preparations have been undermined by the imminent sale of last season's top scorer Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink to Atletico Madrid but still a leading challenger.

LEICESTER CITY (10th)

Manager Martin O'Neill inspired his battling side to the top half of the table and the League Cup final last season and with striker Emile Heskey and midfielder Neil Lennon signing new long-term contracts it should again reach mid-table.

LIVERPOOL (7th)

French coach Gerard Houllier has spent 25 million pounds trying to find the right chemistry to bring the title back to Liverpool for the first time since 1990.

The main departures have been Paul Ince, Steve McManaman and goalkeeper David James while Dietmar Hamann, Titi Camara, Vladimir Smicer, Sami Hyypa, goalkeeper Sander Westerveld and Stephane Henchoz have come in. How they will gel is anyone's guess.

MANCHESTER UNITED (1st)

They may be European Champions, English champions and English F.A. Cup holders but the loathing most neutrals have for Manchester United reached unprecedented heights during the summer when it was announced that they would not compete in the traditionalists F.A. Cup to instead play in the World Club championship in Brazil.

Likely to finish first in the league -- but possibly as low as second if Roy Keane fails to settle his contract dispute and leaves.

MIDDLESBROUGH (9th)

With Paul Ince linking up with Paul Gascoigne in the Boro midfield and German international Christian Ziege adding his considerable presence, Boro should be safe for another season.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (13th)

Manager Ruud Gullit has spent 10 million pounds on defenders Franck Dumas, Marcelino Elena and Alain Goma and another six on creative midfielder Kieron Dyer -- anything to erase the memory of last season's abject failure in the F.A. Cup final against Manchester United.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (12th)

Will Gilles de Bilde, nicknamed "The Animal" by some of his teammates in the past, provide the steel Sheffield Wednesday have been lacking for so long?

Manager Danny Wilson thinks so which is why he paid PSV Eindhoven three million pounds for him. Either way, Wednesday is unlikely to finish above mid-table.

SOUTHAMPTON (17th)

Success for Southampton this coming season will be staying up -- much as it has been since 1978 when it last won promotion. Team to watch out for to give the big boys a run for their money.

SUNDERLAND (Division One: 1st promoted)

Last season Sunderland scored 91 league goals, amassed a record 105 points and were the outstanding team in the first division. The only thing for certain is that this season will be very different.

However, Peter Reid's team look equipped to stay clear of trouble and consolidate their place. The purchase of Stefan Schwartz will make Sunderland a more formidable side than last season.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (11th)

How ironic that it should be former Arsenal boss George Graham who turned around Spurs after only six months in charge last season.

They won the League Cup -- their first honour for eight years -- qualifying for Europe in the process.

David Ginola was named both Footballer of the Year and Player of the Year. Graham will be looking for more improvement in the months ahead.

WATFORD (Division One: 5th promoted)

Former England boss Graham Taylor returns to the big time with Watford who won promotion for the second successive season after a playoff victory against Bolton at Wembley.

But there is no money to spend and there is little doubt Watford will struggle to stay up this season.

WEST HAM UNITED (5th)

Paulo Wanchope, Paolo Di Canio and Ian Wright could provide some real excitement up front for Hammers fans, who were treated to some outstanding football at times last season.

With youngsters Rio Ferdinand, Frank Lampard and the promising Joe Cole committed for the future, things are looking up at Upton Park.

WIMBLEDON (16th)

Former Norway boss Egil Olsen, who has taken over from Joe Kinnear, has promised to keep the Crazy Gang spirit alive and carry Wimbledon forward -- with a succession of long balls if necessary. An eventful, if unpredictable, season awaits.

SCOTTISH PREMIER

Celtic showed that they and Rangers are the teams to beat after a comfortable 3-0 home win in front of 60,253 fans.

Only eight minutes had gone when a Lubomir Moravcik corner was met by Vidar Riseth whose effort was blocked only for Swedish defender Johan Mjallby to convert from close range to put the home team ahead.

Celtic doubled their advantage when Alan Main was unable to hold an angled shot from Larsson and Mark Viduka showed superb composure to tap in the rebound via a stylish backheel to make it 2-0.

Miguel Simao caught Celtic keeper Jonathan Gould off his line but his chipped shot drifted just over the bar, but it was a rare moment of concern for the home side.

Celtic moved 3-0 ahead after 50 minutes when a Moravcik free-kick was for Morten Wieghorst to power in a header.

John Barnes said: "I'll be delighted if we go through the season without the defence being tested, I realise that won't happen, but what can we do about that?"

"When we come up against stiffer tests then we'll need a complete team performance, but we can hardly let them have the ball to test."

Dick Advocaat may have been disappointed with his players efforts last week against Kilmarnock, but he can have had few complaints this week as his team laid their Tynecastle bogey with some style.

The title holders went in front when Claudio Reyna picked up the ball on halfway before feeding Mols on the right.

The American continued his run and when the return ball came into the box he was on hand to slide the ball under Rousset from 14 yards.

Jonaton Johansson and Jorg Albertz both spurned opportunities as Hearts were on the rack, but Stefan Klos had to be alert to deal with efforts from Stephane Adam and James as Jim Jefferies men came back into it.

But just before the break Barry Ferguson launched a long ball into the Hearts box which Michael Mols controlled and dispatched with consummate ease.

Rangers dominated after the break and Jorg Albertz made it three after the ball broke to him after Mols' run, and the embarrassment continued for the home side when Rod Wallace crossed from the left and Reyna headed home the fourth.

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NEWCASTLE V ASTON VILLA



Newcastle 0-1 Aston Villa

Alan Shearer was sensationally sent off in his 100th match for Newcastle as Roud Gullit's side crashed to Aston Villa at St James Park.

The England captain was dismissed in the 70th minute for serious foul play on Ian Taylor, and five minutes later, the Villa attack compounded the Magpies misery with a decisive counter-thrust goal.



Shearer did not have the happiest of Premier League starts against Aston Villa.

Mark Delaney hared down the left and his pin-point cross was glanced in at the nearpost by Julian Joachim.



M'BORO V BRADFORD



Middlesbrough 0-1 Bradford

If Bradford City's last season was like a fairytale for their fans and management, their first ever Premiership fixture - and first game in the top flight for 77 years - was like a fairytale in which all the players got to cop off with Cinderella and Snow White.

Paul Jewell has made some smart investments over the summer, but none paid off more handsomely than the deal, only completed at 1.30pm on the Friday before the big kick-off, that saw Dean Saunders move to Valley Parade from Benfica. On a free transfer.

Talk about getting your money's worth - the Welsh international came off the bench to drill home the winner after 89 minutes off backs-to-the-wall, clearances-off-the-line, edge-of-the-seat pressure against a Middlesbrough side that might have to start believing in fairies.

Bryan Robson mysteriously left out Paul Ince from the side, there was not even any room for him on the bench, and he preferred youngster Andy Campbell to last season's top scorer Hamilton Ricard.

The selection looked like it would pay off - after honours were even in the first ten minutes, the home side flexed their muscles and won eight corners in a concerted spell of pressure. City were indebted to David Wetherall when he hooked a Brian Deane effort off the line.

Christian Ziege was Boro's most impressive player, foraying up the left flank and putting in dangerous balls to the front men. But Paul Gascoigne looked out of sorts and was given a stern talking-to after only ten minutes after fouling Neil Redfearn.

City were on the back foot for much of the first half as they struggled to come to terms with the change of pace in the higher division. Campbell had two great chances and Deane also went close in the opening period.

But Paul Jewell's men showed real character and came back well in the second half.

Their defending was valiant but they rarely tested former City keeper Mark Schwarzer.

Until the last minute denouement, that is - when Schwarzer could do nothing to prevent Saunders capping his debut with a goal after Lee Mills' powerful run down the left resulted in a cross that the new boy gleefully smacked home.

Manager Paul Jewell was as delighted with the clean sheet and the three points. He said: "In the first half we were under the cosh but we defended superbly. When you keep a clean sheet, there's always a chance you can sneak one at the other end. And in the second half I

The visitors resisted all the pressure that Newcastle's ten men could muster to cling on to their first victory on Tyneside in the Premiership.

In a competitive first half, Alain Goma was denied a debut goal by the crossbar as Newcastle dominated the opening exchanges. However, Villa gave an early indication of their potency on the break when goalkeeper Steve Harper had earlier had to make a stunning save to deny former Magpie Alan Thompson.

Referee Uriah Rennie was kept busy with five names going into the book.

Gary Speed sent a header over from Nolberto Solano's teasing cross, and James was pressurised once more when he had to make a brave sprint from his line five minutes later as Speed, Solano, Temuri Ketsbaia and Shearer combined to allow Serrant to put in a dangerous looking ball.

The Geordie full-house were baying for a penalty as the half drew to an end when Spanish debutant Marcelino was sent flying in the box as he tried to meet a Solano corner, but the referee waved away the furious protests.

Dyer replaced Marcelino at half time to join Speed in midfield, with Dumas slotting back into defence. The former Ipswich winger combined well with Solano on 48 minutes but his low cross was hit too hard for the advancing Ketsbaia. The unsettled Georgian was at the heart of much of Newcastle's best work and might have scored with a 52nd minute volley after the luckless Shearer headed down Dumas' ball forward, but he blazed over.

James then saved twice from Ketsbaia inside three minutes as the home team pressed for the three points, but disaster struck with twenty minutes remaining as Shearer's challenge on Ian Taylor was adjudged to be vindictive by Uriah Rennie.

thought we were the better side. It took us a while to get used to it and we got our reward."

West Ham 1-0 Tottenham

West Ham came out on top in the first London derby of the season as Frank Lampard Jr. continued his fine goal-scoring start to the season.

The midfielder latched onto a through-ball from Paolo Di Canio and poked the ball under the onrushing lap Walker to score the only goal of the game on the stroke of half-time.

West Ham started strongly having already played four Intertoto Cup matches this season and Cameroon international Marc-Vivien Foe hit the bar in the first minute. Walker also made fine early saves from Paulo Wanchope and Frank Lampard.

Both teams lost instrumental defenders in the first half as first Spurs' Sol Campbell, then West Ham's Ian Pearce were substituted. Pearce was making his first Premiership start after breaking his leg and will be out for a long time after damaging knee ligaments.



Gascoigne is tackled by Bradford's Beagrie.

Hammers boss Harry Redknapp was worried about the player saying, "It's quite a bad injury. He has damaged ligaments and will be out for months rather than weeks.

That is a big blow for us because I haven't much defensive cover."

Tottenham finished the match with 10 due to injury.



SHEFF. WED V LIVERPOOL



Sheffield Wed 1-2 Liverpool

Gerard Houllier's new image at Anfield got off to a perfect start at Hillsborough with a 2-1 win away from home.

But the old, old problems looked evident in defence as Wednesday, buoyed by substitute Benito Carbone, staged a late fightback which threatened to keep a point in the Steel City.



Alexanderson of Sheff. Wednesday(11) goes for a header with Smicer of Liverpool(17) as Fowler looks on.

In a game which has thrown up as many questions as answers, maybe the most intriguing will be around the artful figure of Robbie Fowler, who was at the centre of everything good about the Reds.

The underachieving England international, with any doubts over his future at Anfield firmly out to bed in the summer, saw his 75th minute chip soar over Pavel Smicek to give Liverpool the lead and add the element of quality to a high tempo game.

And those critics who saw £2.6million French recruit

Titi Camara as another Bakayoko-type figure were made to eat their words as the debutant struck the second after Smicek could only parry another Fowler effort.

But with just over 90 seconds left, Carbone gave Wednesday hope with the game's second sublime chip, this time over unimpressive debutant Sander Westerveld to pull the scoreline back to 2-1.

Liverpool unveiled over £21million worth of talent with Westerveld, centre-back Sami Hyypia, midfielders Vladimir Smicer and Dietmar Hamann and striker Titi Camara. And Wednesday boss Danny Wilson, gave debuts to his own £5million new strikeforce in Gilles de Bilde and Gerald Sibon and left contract rebel Benito Carbone as a substitute but why was Carbone, who lifted the crowd when brought on with just fifteen minutes to go, left on the bench given his known creative impact in the English game?

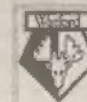
Early on, things looked healthier for Wilson. The Belgian with the beastly reputation, de Bilde, fired a dipping 25-yard left foot shot in the 12th minute that touched the top of the crossbar.

But Fowler was always at the hub of the action. He dribbled past three players before forcing a save out of Smicek soon after, and in the second half got inadvertently in the way of a David Thompson piledriver. And when Jamie Redknapp's hot 40-yard free-kick was parried by Smicek Fowler could not complete the job from five yards out.

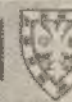
Young Thompson had entered the fray after 24 minutes as another question was raised of the Liverpool camp. Is there an injury jinx? Hamann, the £8million signing from Newcastle, limped off with a right ankle injury.

When he came on crowd favourite Carbone set up Richard Cresswell, who scored the winner in this game last year.

Vladimir Smicer shone in patches on his debut, the Czech coming the closest for Liverpool in the first-half with a shot cleared by Jon Newsome.



WATFORD V WIMBLEDON



Watford 2-3 Wimbledon

Egil Olsen visited Vicarage Road and continued to terrorise his opposite number Graham Taylor as Wimbledon spoiled Watford's Premiership debut with a 3-2 victory.

The Dons' record of only one win in their last 21 games - since Joe Kinnear's heart attack - seemed a distant memory as the new-look Crazy Gang provided enough first-half thrills and spills to last a season.

The drama began when Carl Cort latched onto John Hartson's knockdown and fired past Alec Chamberlain's replacement Chris Day.

Wimbledon started with three tall strikers, with Cort and Gayle on the wings, and it was stretching Watford early on.

But the new boys showed some fight and equalised seven minutes later when Dean Blackwell brought down Michel Ngonge just six yards from goal. Referee Stephen Lodge had no hesitation in awarding the penalty and Peter Kennedy made no mistake from the spot.

So, with the impetus of a recent goal and being one player to the good, the home fans expected the floodgates to open. But Wimbledon - if not Olsen - have been around long enough to know how to spoil a good party. And they did just that when Marcus Gayle fired in a spectacular free-kick to mark his 50th league goal.

Gayle almost extended the lead but hit the side-netting from an angle, and Earle powered a shot wide just before the break.

The second half was a purists' nightmare - long-ball to long-ball, box-to-box - and when Zaire international Ngonge levelled the scores with 20 minutes to play, Watford looked capable of getting all three points.

But Egil Olsen and Wimbledon don't work that way. The Dons took the lead for the third time when a mix-

up between Chris Day and Robert Page let in substitute Neal Ardley to poke the ball messily home.

That goal led Taylor to admit his team were upset: "They're just pig sick that they've lost a game of football in the manner that they have. It's a lousy result for us



Action between Watford and Wimbledon.

and it's a lousy result because of the way we conceded the goals and you don't need an expert to see that.

"People say you can't afford to defend like that in the Premiership, but you can't afford to do that in the Third Division. That would cost you dearly in any division and you could not afford to do that on the Sunday park."

Olsen was less bothered about the manner of the win: "Two things are important - one is the result and the other is the performance," he said.

"The performance was about average, especially in the first half when we made a lot of mistakes. It was better in the second half and I'm proud of the will, the stamina and the guts of the players. They tried very hard and they never gave up to get the victory."

Compiled by

UK

Soccer Weekly

ARSENAL V LEICESTER

Arsenal 2-1 Leicester

Arsenal came from behind to scrape a 2-1 victory over Leicester after Frank Sinclair scored a last minute own-goal at Highbury.

It will be a day to forget for Foxes boss Martin O'Neill after Emile Heskey was taken to hospital following a clash with Gilles Grimandi with his neck in a brace.

Leicester boss Martin O'Neill said: "It looks as though we could lose him for some time and that would be a

The Gunners started with Kanu and Bergkamp up front and started brightly as both players shot narrowly over the bar early on. Tim Flowers was penalised for time-wasting in the 28th minute, but Arsenal's indirect free-kick from 12 yards hit the wall.

Early in the second half, Tony Cottee took advantage of some hesitant Arsenal defending, as Steve Guppy's cross fell between Manninger and Petit and Cottee got on the end to give Leicester the lead.

Arsenal threw Overmars and Henry on as they tried to get back into the match. They had shot after shot, with Vieira, Henry and Kanu all going close and finally, in the 68th minute Dennis Bergkamp got the equaliser.

A Gerry Taggart clearance fell to the Dutchman on the edge of the box, who tucked it into the bottom corner.

Leicester were living on their nerves as Arsenal pushed forwards looking for the winner and when Andy Impey cleared a Grimandi header off the line and Flowers tipped a Bergkamp cross over the bar, they thought they had done enough to get a point.

But from the resultant corner, both Frank Sinclair and Tim Flowers came for the ball and the former Chelsea defender's header fell into the unguarded net to give Arsenal the 3 points on the opening day.



Savage(l) of Leicester fights for the ball with Ljungberg of Arsenal.

huge blow. The news we are waiting for is of vital importance. We had to do without him for long periods last season with his back problems but we are in deep trouble if he's out for a long spell now."

COVENTRY V S'TON

Coventry 0-1 Southampton

Egil Ostenstad's calm finish with five minutes remaining gave Southampton their first away victory on the opening day of the season for 11 years, and undid all the excellent work from Sky Blues debutant Mustapha Hadji.

The goal was conjured up by Matt Le Tissier, his precise through ball being a timely signal to Kevin Keegan ahead of England's Euro 2000 qualifier in Poland, but it was the Moroccan Hadji who eclipsed everyone else on the pitch at Highfield Road.

The African Footballer Of The Year in 1998 turned in a performance that was as impressive for its workrate as it was for its invention, and he was desperately unlucky not to score with two vicious first-half strikes.

His countryman Chippo came close to breaking the deadlock when Jones was forced to parry block his stinging effort.

The only time Hadji failed to live up to his billing was when he mis-hit a shot over the crossbar after Huckerby cut the ball back into his path.

However, it was a game that went to both ends with equal regularity, as new signing Dean Richards kept the menacing Hadji and Whelan at bay and distributed the ball forward in an efficient manner.

Coventry keeper Magnus Hedman pulled off a great save to deny Chris Marsden but he was rooted to the spot when Le Tissier's corner was headed over at close range by Hassan Kachoul as half-time approached.

The second half had notably fewer chances, a 30-yard shot from Marc Edworthy in the 48th minute was the pick of the action before Le Tissier's perfectly weighted pass in the dying minutes.

Dave Jones will be delighted to have claimed all three points, especially since the Saints only managed two wins and four draws last season. As for Strachan, he will no doubt be encouraged by the magical performance from his record signing, Hadji, who will consider himself unfortunate that his efforts were to no avail.

Jones said: "To get the first win on the opening day for 11 years is a big boost but we earned it. We ground it out but if you keep working hard you will get your reward."

"I'm pleased for all the supporters to break the duck but we've got to build on it. We can't look at things and say 'It's done now' because it's only the first game. It's a very important season for us all but we've given

ourselves something to build from," he added.

Gordon Strachan commented: "I was disappointed with the result but not too downhearted about the performance. We had a lot of chances and their goalkeeper was inspired."

"Hadji has done very well considering he has not played much but then I thought other people like David Burrows were also excellent. There were not too many negative performances," he added.

Leeds 0-0 Derby

The youngest ever Premiership strike-force of Michael Bridges, 21, and Alan Smith, 18, linked well and promises much for the Elland Road assault on the title but they were unable to pierce the resolute Derby defence as the Rams poached a point for Jim Smith.

Derby stopper Mark Poom was in splendid form, and he saved the day with a miraculous parry from Harry Kewell in the final 15 minutes. New boys Bridges and Danny Mills seemed to slot in perfectly with their new teammates, and the on-looking England coach Kevin Keegan's notepad will have been brimming with scribbled platitudes.

Derby showed little enterprise, but they defended in an organised manner to keep out O'Leary's men, who had netted no fewer than 27 times in pre-season. Leeds dominated territorially, but despite the absence of Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, the young home strike force, spurred on by the central probing of Kewell and Batty looked like they would make the breakthrough.

Derby nearly sneaked a goal when Rory Delap blasted into Nigel Martyn's body after a deft one-two with Stefano Eranio.

In the second half, Poom had to be alert to push David Hopkin's free-kick from the right over his own crossbar after Dorigo had clattered into Bowyer. However all Poom's hard work nearly came to nothing when he fumbled a Bowyer shot in the 64th minute, his only error in the game.

The visitors clung on, however, and Leeds were reduced to taking long-range shots in the closing stages.

Afterwards David O'Leary said: "You don't have to be a rocket scientist to know that. Believe me, we have got £12million in the bank and we need a striker."

"The television experts have said to me you must know you need a striker. Believe me, I am only the manager and I know I need a striker."

CHELSEA V SUNDERLAND

Chelsea 4-0 Sunderland

Chelsea began their Premiership aspirations with a 4-0 thrashing of premier League new boys, Sunderland.

The emphatic scoreline should have been dramatic. Gianluca Vialli's Chelsea, rated second-favourites in the race for the new Premiership season, might have rattled

during crunch time last April and May.

Just why became obvious only minutes into the 1999-2000 season, when from Dennis Wise's inswinging corner, Poyet powered his header past Sunderland keeper Thomas Sorenson - until then quite magnificent in making three blinding saves to deny Zola, Sutton and Poyet.

Poyet was heavily involved in the second strike, setting up Italian veteran Zola to make it 2-0 and all but end Sunderland's hopes of a decent start to their bid to remain among the elite. Zola looked too wide as he took the pass but managed to strike a fine shot across into the far corner.

The second half was even more one-sided, Flo coming on to thump his header in from a perfectly-floated cross from the Romanian Petrescu before Chelsea produced the very best of the lot.

Zola racing down the right-hand side, crossing ideally for Poyet, who crashed in his second and Chelsea's fourth.

No wonder Zola was satisfied, admitting: "That was the best and a very good goal. He put it away like Billy Big-



Chelsea new boy, Didier Deschamps(l) fight for the ball with Niall Quinn(r) as Ferrer is caught in the middle of the tussle.

time. A phrase I've learned here.

"It's a nice start but we want to be playing like this at the end of the year. We will try and be better than last year but, of course, it's not an easy task because we have to be more consistent and, hopefully, score more goals."

The new boys Chris and Didier Deschamps played very well. Analyse our performance and it was very good team effort. The new guys settled in and we're quite happy."

Poor Sunderland, outclassed and outpassed, barely managed a shot on goal, Niall Quinn having their best effort with a low drive straight at Eddie De Goey in the second half.

But manager Peter Reid was still smiling. Just!

Beaten 6-0 on their last visit to Stamford Bridge, Reid said: "Chelsea were different class, their movement and passing was quite exceptional. I don't normally talk about the other side but they were marvellous."

"It was a lesson, and it is a bad start but there is a long way to go - there's no question we are better equipped than the last time were in the division to stay here, much stronger - and with far greater depth."



Tore Andre Flo was happy at scoring and so was the Stamford Bridge faithful



Chelsea celebrate their four goal smashing of Sunderland with Zola carrying Poyet on his shoulders.

1999 CONFEDERATIONS CUP



MEXICO 4



BRAZIL 3